WEDNESDAY
August 30, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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Sri D. K. Shivakumar
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Department of Information and Public Relations

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karnataka information

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LUNAR SURFACE ANALYSIS

Pragyan confirms presence of Sulphur

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RISKS FLAGGED

Weak monsoon may spur food prices, say economists

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TOSHAKHANA CASE

Pak. court suspends Imran's sentence

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THALINOMICS

Cost of a thali has risen much higher than wages

Meal costs went up by 65%, wages by 37%

OPINION » PAGE 9

BATTLE BEGINS

Pakistan meets Nepal in Asia Cup opener

SPORT » PAGE 15

NEARBY

Vayu Vajra bus heading to HSR Layout overturns

BENGALURU
A Vayu Vajra bus of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) overturned near Palace Guttahalli flyover, close to BDA headquarters, on Tuesday. All 11 passengers are safe, but a woman passenger suffered an injury on a finger while the driver sustained a head injury.

» Page 2

'Administration has derailed'

BENGALURU
Alleging that the administration had derailed in the first 100 days of governance by the Congress and corruption had reached the level of "daylight robbery", the Opposition BJP on Tuesday brought out a book titled "Kai Kotta Yojanegalu – Halitappida Adalitha." Former CM Basavaraj Bommai accused the Congress govt. of going back on its promise of providing clean administration and fighting corruption. » Page 4

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3

Centre slashes LPG prices by ₹200 ahead of poll season

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday gave its nod for the reduction of the price of a domestic LPG cylinder by ₹200. The move comes ahead of Assembly elections in five States and the Lok Sabha election scheduled in 2024.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed the move a "Raksha Bandhan gift" to the sisters of the country. The decision will come into effect on Wednesday.

The decision will come into effect on Wednesday. PTI

The Opposition, which has been attacking the Centre over high prices for cooking gas, said the decision is just a poll gimmick.

The Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry said it was a bold decision by the Prime Minister. The beneficiaries covered under Prime Minister's Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) will continue to get a further subsidy of ₹200 per cylinder in their bank accounts. The Cabinet also approved 75 lakh additional Ujjwala connections. The number of beneficiaries under the scheme will rise to 10.35 crore.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
'FEAR OF LOSING POLLS'
» PAGE 11

Manipur House ends session in 48 minutes

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI/IMPHAL

The Manipur Assembly sat on Tuesday for a Special Session but what was supposed to be held for a day was over in less than an hour – precisely 48 minutes – with all 10 Kuki MLAs missing.

It was the briefest session ever for the 60-member House.

The session began at 11 a.m. and ended at 11.48 a.m. with a 30-minute adjournment in between, incensing the Congress legislators who demanded a five-day session to discuss the ongoing ethnic violence.

The Opposition members, led by former Chief Minister and veteran Congress leader Okram Ibobi Singh, said the prevailing situation in the State deserved more than a short session.

The proceedings of the House began with a two-minute silence for the victims of the ethnic violence.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Mercury level hits a record in city in August

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

For almost a week now, people of Bengaluru have been complaining about the sweltering heat in the city as mercury levels continued to go up. On Monday, Bengaluru recorded its hottest August day in a decade as the temperature touched 32.6° Celsius, which was 4.5° away from normal, according to the data IMD, Bengaluru.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 3

When will you restore J&K Statehood, CJI asks Centre

Solicitor-General says it will return to being a State after 'normalcy' is back; agrees to make a positive statement on the question by tomorrow; Ladakh, however, will remain a U.T., he adds

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Tuesday gave the Centre leeway to claim it had converted Jammu and Kashmir into a Union Territory for a "stipulated period" in order to protect national security, but pushed the government to commit to a time frame by which it will be restored to a full-fledged State.

The Centre said the Union Territory status of Jammu and Kashmir was not a permanent feature. "We will make a positive statement the day after tomorrow [August 31] on Jammu and Kashmir. Ladakh will, however, remain a Union Territory," Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta informed the court in the post-lunch session of the hearing.

> The government has to make a statement before us that the progression back to Statehood will take place within a time... that this is not a Union Territory permanently
> **D.Y. CHANDRACHUD**
> Chief Justice of India

He said elections in Ladakh would be over in September.

Time frame sought

During the morning session of the hearing, the Chief Justice had asked the Solicitor-General, and Attorney-General R. Venkataramani, to secure instructions from the government on the period of time within which Jammu and Kashmir would return to being a State.

"We do not want to bind you... We understand there are matters of national security involved... We know that preservation of the nation is the overriding concern... So, without putting you [the Solicitor-General] or the Attorney-General in a bind, can you seek instructions on whether there is some time frame? The government has to make a statement before us that the progression back to Statehood will take place within a time... that this is not a Union Territory permanently," Chief Justice Chandrachud had told the Centre.

The Chief Justice had reminded the Centre that the "restoration of democracy is a vital component for our nation".

The Chief Justice had offered the "national security" line to the government amidst a barrage of questions from the Constitution Bench on whether the Parliament has the power to carve existing and functional border States into Union Territories.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Cauvery row: CWMA asks State to release 5,000 cusecs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Tuesday was directed by the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) to ensure that 5,000 cusecs of water was released at Biligundulu on the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border till September 12. This was decided at a meeting of the authority. The quantum was earlier recommended by the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC), which held its deliberations on Monday. Tamil Nadu wanted 24,000 cusecs to be supplied, while Karnataka' stand was 3,000 cusecs.

Responding cautiously to the direction, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that the State would discuss with legal experts the latest directives by CWMA.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 7

Hamsalekha to inaugurate Dasara festivities in Mysuru

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that music director Hamsalekha will inaugurate this year's Dasara festivities in Mysuru.

He was speaking to reporters on Tuesday after visiting Goddess Chamundeshwari temple atop Chamundi Hills, along with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and some of his Cabinet colleagues.

The Chief Minister, who heads the Dasara High-Powered Committee, visited the temple on the occasion of the government completing 100 days in office.

Mr. Hamsalekha, 72, is a music composer and film lyricist. He is credited with bringing a shift in Kannada film music, with his rustic use of spoken language.

He won the national film award for best music direction in 1995, State award in the same category thrice, and for best lyrics twice, apart from six Filmfare awards. Mr. Hamsalekha was also awarded the Dr. Rajkumar Lifetime Achievement Award by the State government in 2012. The government has already announced that the celebrations would be grand this year.

The first batch of Dasara elephants is arriving in Mysuru on September 1. The Gajapayana of nine elephants led by Abhimanyu, who carries the golden howdah, has been scheduled on September 1 at Veeranahosahalli in Nagarahole. Arrangements are being made at the venue to welcome the elephants from their respective camps.

Music director Hamsalekha. FILE PHOTO

Minister in charge of Mysuru district H.C. Mahadevappa will be welcoming the elephants and flagging off the Gajapayana. The elephants will be formally welcomed at the Mysuru palace on September 4. Mahouts, kavadis and their families will accompany elephants from various forest camps. Temporary accommodation has been arranged for them near the palace where the elephants will be camping until the Dasara finale.

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Heroic tale of the fall and rise of Bol

The Dutch athlete, chosen to run the final lap of the mixed 4x400m relay and expected to guide the team home, fell and lost the baton and the race; she put the disappointment behind and bounced back to win the 400m hurdles gold; when she was given the chance to anchor the women's 4x400m team, she took the team to the top of the podium with a remarkable burst

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

Femke Bol was all fired up. With eyes on the podium and heart beating with the hopes and emotions of her country, the 23-year-old Dutch was on her way to glory.

She was part of the Netherlands' mixed 4x400 team and was chosen to run the final lap and take them home, on the opening day of the 2023 World Athletics Championship in Budapest. But what makes the track interesting is its unpredictability. When she was just 50m away from the gold, tragedy struck. Femke Bol who was leading the pack fell face down on the track. Her lead meant she could have gotten up, finished and earned her team a grandstand finish, but the baton slipped from her hand making her unable to finish. It arguably was the darkest moment of an athlete's career. She did not just let herself down, she let her team and her country down. An emotional blow so hard that it takes experienced athletes years to recover from.

But Bol is made up of different mettle. She turned agony into ecstasy in just five days, winning gold in women's 400-metre hurdles. Bol arrived in Budapest as the favourite to win the event. World record-holder Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, the only one who could have challenged Bol, chose to skip the event to focus on the 400 metres. Bol came in second behind McLaughlin-Levrone last summer in Oregon. And now without her, no one could be envisaged beating Bol. Until the opening day.

Runs past personal demons

Bol did not just run past her opponents; she ran past her personal demons. Exhibiting extreme psychological willpower, she cruised past others to open a wide lead and finish comfortably in 51.70 seconds, the second-best time of her career. After the race, she said "Everyone felt, 'ok, well, on paper she's by far the winner. She's going to win it'". But it is never comforting to know the whole world is expecting you to succeed. It is expectations that let one down. Mix that expectation with the agony of going down, one can see the battles Bol fought to get her gold.

"I think a lot of people felt when I got the stick (in the relay) we would have won gold easily," Bol explains. "We didn't get it... I want to be my best self and I think I did this today." Right off the start, it was clear the race was Bol's to control, and the real race was for the second position.

Bol credits her teammates, coaches, family and psychologist for the stunning comeback. "They supported me," says Bol. "At one point, we said, 'OK, tournament one (the mixed relay) is done. Tournament two (400 hurdles) starts and we're going to go through the rounds of hurdles and get confidence and do my best.'" She was greeted at the finishing line with signs that read 'Femke, Bol

them'. But this was just part one of her comeback story. She made it up to herself, but she still had to make up for her team. And she did so at the final track event of the Championship, the women's 4x400 relay. Bol who went down from a winning position on the opening day, came from behind to win her team gold. Bol's Championship story is a circular tale, with the same stage for the opening and the end. The only difference was Bol's determination to make amends. She stood firm where anyone else would have faltered.

Bol found herself with the responsibility of running the last lap once again. But she made it clear with her performance that the responsibility was not a burden. She embraced the challenge and let the world know who she was. Taking over the baton couple of metres behind Jamaican Stacey Ann Williams and British Nicole Yeargin, she found herself about ten metres behind the leader Williams by the back straight.

Bol was not ready to go down without a fight. She passed Yeargin 30 metres behind the line and took the first place with her last two strides, taking Netherlands home in 3:20:72 ahead of Jamaica's 3:20:88.

"The first three legs went so well, I felt like I had to finish as strongly as I could," Bol said after the race. "I wanted to stay patient, but in the last metres I said 'No, we have to take it'. She took it and made it up to her team. She managed to turn Bronze into gold within a distance of 30 metres and agony into ecstasy within the span of a week.

After a heroic tale of turning tides, Bol has already set her sights on the next target: the Paris Olympics. She already has an Olympic podium after winning bronze in the 400-metre hurdles last time in Tokyo and is now set to go all the way in Paris.

THE GIST

- Bol was all set for a grandstand finish in the mixed relay but fell to the ground when she was within striking distance of gold
- She credits her teammates, coaches, family and psychologist for the stunning comeback
- The Dutchwoman has already set her sights on the next target: the 2024 Paris Olympics

ODI cricket has always brought the best out of me, says Virat Kohli

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

Weeks before the start of the ODI World Cup, Indian batting maestro Virat Kohli has expressed his fondness for the format, saying it has "always brought the best" out of him.

The World Cup begins on October 5 in Ahmedabad, and host India will enter as one of the favourite despite not winning an ICC title in the past 10 years.

Talking to *Star Sports*, Kohli stressed on the technical challenges and the strategic decision-making skills required to excel in the format, along with the adaptability needed throughout the game.

"I love playing ODI cricket. I think for me, ODI cricket is probably the one format that tests your game completely. Your technique, composure, patience, playing the situation, and playing differently in different phases of the game," he said.

"So, I think it tests you as a batsman completely, and I feel the ODI cricket has always brought the best out of me because I like to embrace that challenge and play according to the situation to help my team win.

"I have always tried to do that as I said, it gives me an opportunity to test myself regularly, all aspects of my batting, and that's why I really enjoy playing ODI cricket," he added.

Kohli has an excellent record in the 50-over format, averaging 66 when batting second and 48 when batting first.

His ODI career so far includes 46 centuries, 26 of which were scored during run-chases, setting a record for the most hundreds scored when batting second.

Before the ICC showpiece, India is playing in the Asia Cup and will get it's campaign underway against arch-rival Pakistan on Sunday in Pallekele.

All praise

Meanwhile, former Indian batter Mohammad Kaif was all praise for Kohli's phenomenal performance lately against the Men in Green, hailing his capability to take charge, especially while chasing.

"His (Kohli's) performance in Australia at the T20 World Cup (last year), against Pakistan, he played magnificently. He takes full responsibility and is a chase master," he said.

"The form that he had in that World Cup was because of his performances in the Asia Cup (2022), starting from that century he hit against Afghanistan. He had a dry run before that, but after his performances in the Asia Cup, he did not stop; he won matches, even the match against Pakistan in Australia." While Kaif backed Kohli to continue with the same momentum, he added that the Pakistani bowlers would be under pressure to stop his free-flowing batting.

"But, the form he is in, the pressure will always be on the (Pakistani) bowlers. And, the fact that he has played the Pakistani bowlers in their last match at the T20 World Cup, he will know how every Pakistani bowler bowls.

"Kohli will know how to play them. He will know what their strengths and weaknesses are," Kaif signed off.

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No:RGU/PROC/I Pad/09/2023-24 Date: 28.08.2023

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (RFP)

The Registrar Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences invites tender for Procurement of IPads to RGUHS. More Details on the service are provided in the attached Terms of Reference.

Tender No:RGUHK/2023-24/SE0002

Tender document available for downloaded	28/08/2023 16:19 Hrs
Last date for receipt of Tender	04/09/2023 16:30 Hrs
Opening of Technical Bid	05/09/2023 17:00 Hrs
Place of Opening of Tender	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru

More details can be fetched from website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** DIPR/1088/2023-24 **Sd/- REGISTRAR**

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E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Two Cover System) (Through e-Procurement portal only)

Sealed tenders are invited through e-procurement portal website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from reputed contractors/agencies for the following works: **(1)** No.KPCL/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT258/Call-2 Date:23.08.2023 for **"Overhauling of 10 ton capacity PA Fan Hoists and 15 Ton Capacity ID Fan Hoists at RTPS".** EMD: **Rs.36,646/-.** Last date for submission of bid (both Cover 1&2) along with documents to meet qualification criteria is **01.09.2023 up to 17.00 hrs. (2)** No.KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_ INDENT 535 Date:23.08.2023 for **"Supply, Service & Reconditioning of Kirloskar make reciprocating air compressors Model TBTD-PM of units 5 to 7 and TBTD-RM of unit 8.** Amount put to tender: **Rs.39,76,393/-.** EMD: **Rs.80,000/-.** Last date for Submission of Tender: **04.09.2023, 16.00 hrs.** Further details can be had for Sl.No. (1) Office of the **Executive Engineer (HT-2) RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584 170, Raichur District. Mobile No.9449596528** for Sl.No. (2) **Superintending Engineer (MM-1) RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584 170, Raichur District. Mobile No.9449596542**

Government of Karnataka
(REVENUE DEPARTMENT)

Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chamarajanagar District, Chamarajanagar
Email : deo.cnagar@gmail.com Phone No. : 08226-223170

No. AJSK/CR/02/2023-24 **Dated : 25-08-2023**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

The Deputy Commissioner, Chamarajanagar District, Chamarajanagar invites KPPP Short term tender from eligible Agencies/ Companies under for providing Data entry Operators for Atalji Janasnehi Kendra's in Chamarajanagara District Under AJSK Project (AJSK/CR/02/2023-24) Amount put to Tender : 90.00 Lakhs (Including GST), EMD Amount : 1.80 lakhs, Period of Contract : 01 year. Last date for submission of bids for the tender is : 06-09-2023 5.00 pm, Prebid Meeting Venue & date : 31-08-2023 at 11.00 am, (Room No. 103, DC Office, Chamarajanagar), Date of opening of tenders technical bids : 07-09-2023 at 5.00 pm & Date of opening of Financial bids: Informed to technically qualified Contractors, Interested Agencies/Companies shall register on the KPPP platform to participate in this tender. Agencies/Companies can download the tender documents from KPPP platform (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/). Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** EMD and tender processing fees shall be paid electronically. For further details go through tender document or contact # 104, Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chamarajanagar District, Chamarajanagar during office hours.

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner,
DIPR : CHANAGAR:113:2023-24 Chamarajanagar District, Chamarajanagar

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ಸಂ.: ಕಾನಿಇ/ಗ್ರಾಕುನಿಸೌವಿ/ಕಾರವಾರ/ಜಿಬಿ–1/ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ/JJM/2023–24/890 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.08.2023

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ/ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಖರೀದಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾನೂನು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ **Standard Tender Document KW-3 & 4** ನಂತೆ ತತ್ಸಂಬಂಧ ಕಾಲಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾದ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಆದೇಶಗಳನ್ವಯ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಆಡಳಿತ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದಂತೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು: (1) INDENT2392 (2) INDENT2385 (3) INDENT2356 (4) INDENT2236 (5) INDENT2245 (6) INDENT2244 (7) INDENT2015 (8) INDENT2266 (9) INDENT2279 (10) INDENT2283

(1) Downloading of document through e-proc portal: **29.08.2023 to 05.09.2023 up to 16.30 Hrs.** (2) Time & date of Pre-Bid Conference: **31.08.2023 Time 11.30 Hrs.** Venue: O/o. Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Po: Habbuwada, Karwar- Uttara Kannada Dist. (3) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: **05.09.2023 Time : 16.30 Hrs.** (4) Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening: **06.09.2023 Time : 17:00 Hrs.** (5) Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening: Will be informed technically qualified bidders after approval of Technical Bid.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಕಾರವಾರ (ಉ. ಕ. ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ).
DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/180/23-24 dt.28.08.2023

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಹಳೆಯಾಳ ವಿಭಾಗ (ಉ.ಕ)
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: **midhly@yahoo.co.in** ಫೋ.ನಂ: **08284–220113**
ನಂ:ಕಾನಿಅ/ಸಣಿನಿವಿಹ/ತಾವಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/4702 ನಬಾರ್ಡ/ಅ.ಪಿ.ಬಂ/2023–24/684 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21/08/2023

ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್)– ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–3

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿ ನವೀಕರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಐಟಂ ದರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ–2000 ಮತ್ತು ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಂತೆ ಕರಾವಳಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಹರಿಯುವ ನದಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಾಂದಾರ/ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ಪಿಕಪ್/ಸ್ಪೇಡ್/ತಡೆಗೋಡೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಗಾಗಿ ಜೊಯಿಡಾ, ಅಂಕೋಲಾ, ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ, ಭಟ್ಕಳ ಮತ್ತು ಶಿರಸಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿನ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ **KW-3** (ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ) ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **"ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯುರಮೆಂಟ್"** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: 4702–00–101–5–01–436 ನಬಾರ್ಡ ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ಪಿಕಪ್ ಬಂದಾರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು: (1) Indent No: 85 (2) Indent No: 86 (3) Indent No: 87 (4) Indent No: 88 (5) Indent No: 89

ಖಾಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ದಲ್ಲಿ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತಂತೆ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08–09–2023** ರೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಅನುಮಾನಗಳಿದ್ದರೆ ಕಚೇರಿ ಅಥವಾ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಪರಿಹರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11–09–2023 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 17.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವೆರೆಗೆ** ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13–09–2023 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 17.35 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ದೊರೆತ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹತಾ ಮಾನದಂಡಗಳನ್ನು **ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–3 ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್** ರಲ್ಲಿರುವಂತೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಮುನ್ನ ಮನದಟ್ಟು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.

ಟೆಂಡರ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮೇಲಿನ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ನಿಗದಿ ಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂದು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಹಾಗೂ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವಿವರಗಳೇ ಅಂತಿಮ.

ವಿ.ಸೂ: ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– (ಅವಿನಾಶ ಆರ್. ಆಲೂರು)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಹಳೆಯಾಳ ವಿಭಾಗ (ಉ.ಕ)
DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/174/23-24 Dt.23.08.23

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, 4ನೇ ಮೈನ್‌ರೋಡ್, 16ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ,
ಸಂಪಂಗಿರಾಮನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560027
ಫೋನ್ & ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 080–22240448, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: dswourban@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಜನಿ.ಸ.ಕ.ಇ/ಬೆಂ(ನ)/ಲೆಕ್ಕ/ಟಿಆರ್–5/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.08.2023

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ **ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುವಾರು (ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ, ಪೂರ್ವ & ಆನೇಕಲ್)** ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ/ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಪೂರ್ವ/ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ನಂತರದ /ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಲಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಹಾರ ಪದಾರ್ಥ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅರ್ಹ ಅಂಗೀಕೃತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರಿಂದ/ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ/ ಅರೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಅಂಗೀಕೃತ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು E-portal ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. E-portal ನಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.08.2023 ರಿಂದ 15.09.2023 ರವರೆಗೆ** ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, 4ನೇ ಮೈನ್ ರೋಡ್, 16ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ, ಸಂಪಂಗಿರಾಮನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560027, ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080–22240449 ಹಾಗೂ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ : **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**ನ್ನು ಪರಾಮರ್ಶಿಸುವುದು.

(1) Bangalore North- SWD/2023-24/IND0066 (2) Bangalore South-SWD/2023-24/IND0070. (3) Bangalore East-SWD/2023-24/IND0071. (4) Bangalore Anekal-SWD/2023-24/IND0073.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/1090/2023–24 ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

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KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

KALINADI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

SHORT TERM BID NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement portal only)

KPCL invites bids through GoK e-Procurement platform **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works: **1) KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT380/CALL-3, Date: 26.08.2023** for Electrification of Proposed Toilet Block at Nagjhari Power House. **2) KPCL/2023-24/SE0039/ CALL-2, Date: 26.08.2023** for Catering services to KPCL staff at Ganeshgudi from **01.10.2023 to 30.09.2024.** Approximate Amount put to tender: **Rs. 10.98 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 27,500/-.** Period of completion: **Twelve Months.** Last Date for receipt of completed bids: **02.09.2023 upto17:30Hrs.** for Sl. No. 1 and **04.09.2023 upto17:00Hrs.** for Sl. No. 2. Further details can be had for Sl. No. 1, from the office of the **Executive Engineer (Generator) Nagjhari, KPCL, Ambikanagar - 581363, Haliyal Taluk, Karwar District, Karnataka.** Mobile No.: **94495 99106** E-mail: **eegennph@gmail.com** & **eegenkalikpcl@karnataka.gov.in.** and for Sl. No. 2, from the office of the **Executive Engineer (Civil) Supa, KPCL, Ganeshgudi - 581365, Joida Taluk, U.K. District, Karnataka.** Phone No.: **08383-256528.** Website: **https://kpcl.karnataka.gov.in**

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client has entered into a Joint Development Agreement with respect to Item No.1 to 4 and intends to enter into a Joint Development Agreement or Purchase the Item No.5 to 8 of agricultural dry lands morefully mentioned and described in the Schedule hereunder with its owners, in the table below ("Owners"), in relation to Agricultural lands totally measuring about 7 Acres 26 Guntas, all situated at Anchemuskur Village, Lakkur Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District. The Owners represent that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property and have a good marketable, right, title and interest therein and that apart from them there are no other person/s having any right or claim over the Schedule Property. The Owners further represents that, they have not entered into any Agreements/MoU entered with any third party for sale, lease or development of the Schedule Property and that the Owners have not mortgaged, created any right, interest, lien or encumbered the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner to any person/s.

Any person/s having any objection/s or claims or claiming or asserting to have any rights, titles, benefits, demands or estate interests in respect of the Schedule Property or to any part thereof of any nature whatsoever and/or any claim whatsoever by way of, under or in the nature of any sale, exchange, gift, allotment, lease, tenancy, license, assignment, mortgage, lien, charge, or encumbrance of any nature, trust, family arrangement/settlement, inheritance, bequest, easement, possession, maintenance, development rights, order/decree/ judgment of any court or any other agreement, understanding or otherwise, howsoever or whatsoever over the Schedule Property or any part thereof and/or having any objection(s) of any manner whatsoever, shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s or claims within Fifteen (15) days from the date of this Notice with the Undersigned, failing which, it will be presumed that no one has any right, title, claim or interest in the Schedule Property and the claim or objection, if any, has been knowingly waived and thereafter no claims or objections of any sort from any person/s will be entertained and/or taken into consideration and my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural dry lands, situated at Anchemuskur Village, Lakkur Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District:

Sl. No.	Name of the Owner/s	Survey No.	Extent		Boundaries			
			Acres	Guntas	East by	West by	North by	South by
1.	Mr. K. SRIKANTH and Mr. R. VENKATESH	44/1	00	09	Land in Sy. No's. 42 & 44/2	Land in Sy.No.45	Land in Sy.No.42	Land in Sy.No. 44/2
2.	Mr. K. SRIKANTH	48/2	00	08	Land in Sy.No.49	Land in Sy.No.48/1	Land in Sy.No.44	Land in Sy.No.48/3
3.	Mr. K. SRIKANTH	48/1	00	20	Land in Sy.No's. 48/2 & 48/3	Land in Sy.No's. 44 & 47	Land in Sy.No.44	Land in Sy.No.52
4.	Mr. K. SRIKANTH	48/3	00	08	Land in Sy.No's. 49 & 50	Land in Sy.No.48/1	Land in Sy.No. 48/2	Land in Sy.No.52
5.	MRS. KRISHNAMMA, MRS. KRISHNAVENI and MR. KRISHNAPPA	34	03	08	Land in Sy.No.29 & Village Boundary	Road	Land in Sy.No.35	Land in Sy.No.33
6.		37/1	01	19	Land in Sy.No.37/2	Nala & Land in Sy.No.38	Land in Sy.No.36	Lake & Road
7.		37/2	01	16	Land in Sy.No.37/3	Land in Sy.No.37/1	Land in Sy.No.36	Lake & Road
8.		37/3	00	18	Road	Land in Sy.No.37/2	Land in Sy.No.36	Land in Sy.No.37/4

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 29.08.2023

Vishal Bhat, Anoma Legal, Bangalore Advocates
1st Floor, A1 Tower, Golden Enclave Commercial Block, Kaveri Nagar, Murugeshpalya, Bengaluru – 560 017.

Vayu Vajra bus heading to HSR Layout overturns

All passengers safe but driver sustains head injury; the incident took place around 12.15 a.m.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Vayu Vajra bus of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) overturned near Palace Guttahalli flyover, close to BDA headquarters, on Tuesday. All 11 passengers are safe, but a woman passenger suffered an injury on a finger while the driver sustained a head injury.

The Vayu Vajra bus that toppled near Palace Guttahalli flyover in Bengaluru.

According to the BMTC, the incident took place around 12.15 a.m. The bus involved was heading towards HSR Layout (BDA complex) from Bengaluru airport.

"As the bus was about to enter the flyover, it overturned. All 11 passengers are safe. A female passenger sustained an injury on a finger. The driver suffered a head injury and has been admitted to a private hospital," a senior BMTC official told *The Hindu*.

The BMTC removed the bus from the spot, and an investigation is under way. An official said that when they inquired about the incident with the conductor, he told them that the driver experienced a bout of dizziness near Palace Guttahalli. He intended to pull over by the roadside, but before he could do so, the bus met with the accident."

The bus was on the night service and had started its operation at 8.05 p.m. on Monday.

Rajinikanth springs a surprise by visiting Jayanagar BMTC depot

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Actor Rajinikanth sprang a surprise on Tuesday by visiting a Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) depot in the city.

Mr. Rajinikanth visited BMTC Depot No. 4 at Jayanagar where he interacted with the crew. The superstar also posed for selfies with the BMTC staff.

Actor Rajinikanth poses for a selfie during a surprise visit to the bus depot in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Prior to his foray into the film industry, Mr. Rajinikanth served as a bus conductor in Bengaluru. During that time, he was assigned to route 10A in the Bangalore Transport Service (BTS, now BMTC).

According to a senior official, no one at the BMTC was aware of the actor's visit. The official told *The Hindu*, "It was an impromptu visit. He interacted with our crew, which included drivers, conductors, and the depot staff. It might be a nostalgic experience for him as he had worked as a conductor in buses of the depot."

Nanjundaswamy, a crew member of the Jayanagar depot, told *The Hindu*: "We were not aware that Mr. Rajinikanth will visit the depot. Around 11.30 a.m., he arrived in a car and walked inside the depot with the driver and his friend and spoke to all of us. He remembered his days working in this depot. He spent 10 minutes with us here and left." Srinivas, another BMTC crew member, said, "We were surprised and happy. When we asked for a selfie, he readily posed for a group photo with us all."

After visiting the depot, the actor visited Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt at Gandhi Bazaar and offered a puja.

Born Shivaji Rao Gaikwad in Bengaluru, he worked in the BTS as a conductor. Mr. Rajinikanth was close to his colleague and driver of the bus Raj Bahadur, who later motivated him to join the Madras Film Institute and supported him financially during this phase.

Later in the day, Mr. Bahadur told reporters that Mr. Rajinikanth started his day by visiting Ramakrishna Mutt at Basavanagudi, where he engaged in an hour-long meditation. Mr. Rajinikanth had studied at the mutt-run school. "Subsequently, he made his way to Maiyas restaurant, where he took some time to enjoy a cup of coffee. Following this, he proceeded to the Jayanagar BMTC depot, where he had once worked as a conductor and then to the Raghavendra Swamy Mutt. After completing his visits to these locations, he returned to Chennai," Mr. Bahadur added.

Woman who was run over by BMTC bus while alighting it over two months ago dies

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 57-year-old woman who sustained severe injuries after falling out of a BMTC bus on June 6 succumbed at Victoria hospital on Tuesday.

The victim, Shivamma, had come to Bengaluru from Mandya. She got down at the satellite bus stand. She got into a parked BMTC bus on platform no. 1 and asked passengers whether the bus would go to Mudalapalya. When the passengers replied in the negative, Shivamma was trying to get down through the middle door when the driver moved the vehicle.

Shivamma lost her balance, fell, and came under the wheels of the bus. Her left leg was crushed. She was rushed to a hospital. The driver initially agreed to bear the medical expenses, but later refused, following which Shivamma's son Ravikumar filed a complaint with the Kengeri traffic police three days later.

Case against driver

On June 12, Kengeri traffic police booked a case against the BMTC driver charging him under Sections 279 (rash and negligent driving) and 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others).

Following the death of Shivamma, the police have charged the driver under Section 304A (causing death by negligence).

Police arrest associate of fugitive terror suspect

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The R.T. Nagar police have arrested an associate of fugitive terror suspect Junaid amid high drama.

The accused, Arshad Khan, was involved in 17 criminal cases and was on the run since the terror module was busted in July, said the police.

The police had kept a close watch and on Sunday morning, based on credible information, a team of police raided his house when he had come to visit his family. According to the police, Arshad tried to escape by inflicting injuries on himself with a knife and later jumped from the second floor of the building. However, he was chased and pinned down. He was taken into custody for questioning.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: E-GSU-ELE-2023-24-OT-11
Dated : 24.08.2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
I. Electrical Arrangements for Proposed Augmentation of Coach Maintenance facility duly extending Sickline shed and other allied works at SBC coaching depot. II. Electrical Arrangements for Yesvantpur - Extension of Sick line shed by 30m with other facilities at Yesvantpur coaching depot.	Rs. 56,48,496/-

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 15-09-2023
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / Gati Shakti Unit Bengaluru
PUB/333/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Public Works Division Aurangabad
E-Tender Notice No. 60 OF 2023 -2024
E- Tender for the following works In **"B-2 Form"** for the **(01) Works** is invited via online E-Tendering system from Contractor/Agency/Firm/Company of Eligible Class by Executive Engineer Public Works Division Aurangabad (PH No.0240-2331174) on behalf of Public Works Department of Government of Maharashtra.
All details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-Tendering Portal **https://mahatenders.gov.in** on sub Portal of public works Department also on **www.mahapwd.gov.in** portal as per online tender Schedules.
sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division
Aurangabad
DGIPR/2023-2024/3177

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE No. 18/2023 Dated : 24/08/2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender Closing Time: 10:30 Hrs.**

Sl.	Tender No.	Description in Brief	Qty.	Tender Due on
1	L3235383A	IGBT inverter based portable plasma system	05 Nos	15.09.2023
2	60232010	6400 mm Over Riding curved Switches 60 kg 1 in 8.5	80 Sets	05.09.2023
3	60232073	Derailing Switches 1in 8.5, 60kg RDSO Drg T6068	68 Sets	05.09.2023
4	60232062	Combination Fish Plate for BG 60Kg -52Kg	1902 Sets	29.09.2023
5	60232082	Joggled Fish Plate & clamps for 52Kg	8104 Sets	29.09.2023
6	18231123	Contactor ST to EMD Part No 9325207	40 Nos	06.09.2023
7	33225025	Set of must change kit items for brake system	78 Sets	07.09.2023
8	75231017A	Pre-Laminated shaded compreg	2285 Nos	19.09.2023
9	75231054	Densified Thermal Bonded Polyester Blocks	3721 Nos	21.09.2023
10	29231003A	Spheribloc for axle guide link	942 Nos	20.09.2023
11	33231257	Improved High Tensile Tight Lock Center buffer Coupler	58 Sets	13.09.2023
12	60232077	6400 mm curved thick web switches 1 in 8.5, 60kg	160 Sets	21.09.2023
13	17231241	Battery Storage Unit (Ni-Cd Battery)	14 Sets	21.09.2023
14	33231076	Speed Sensor to FTRTIL part	301 Nos	22.09.2023
15	16231159	Bearing Connecting Rod Upper Sleeve	964 Nos	07.09.2023
16	16231030A	Clutch Drive Assembly	20 Nos	13.09.2023
17	60232013	6400 mm Over Riding curved Switches 52 kg 1 in 8.5	160 Sets	25.09.2023
18	60232060	Joggled Fish Plate 60 kg RDSO Drg. T-5849	160 Sets	25.09.2023
19	60232041	Glass Filled Nylon-66 Insulating Liner to RDSO Drg.	500000 Sets	25.09.2023
20	77231073B	High Performance Anticorrosion Epoxy Coating	10370 LTR	07.09.2023
21	29231052	Set of pins and bushes for Brake rigging	48 Nos	12.09.2023
22	17231154	Damper primary Vertical 13.83MM	636 Nos	13.09.2023
23	17231153	Secondary yaw Damper for EMD Locomotives	135 Nos	12.09.2023
24	16231459A	Overhauling kit for WDG4/WDP4 Engine Governor	50 Set	18.09.2023
25	16231131	Kit Main bearing Lower to EMD Part No 40017536	65 Nos	18.09.2023
26	45231080A	Brushless DC Railway Carriage Fans	1704 Nos	15.09.2023
27	75231043	Endless V-Belt	1526 Set	11.09.2023
28	60235187	CI Bracket to Drg No RDSO T-8985 for LC Check Rail	10000 Nos	11.09.2023

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/336/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24 Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi
S.W.Railways southwesternrailway_swr SWRRLY southwesternrailway SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE No. CN/07/2023
Dated : 24-08-2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender through IREPS only for supply of following items:
Description in brief : Lead acid low maintenance stationary cells 2V 80 Ah capacity at 10 Hrs rate of discharging etc. **(Tender No. 95235246) (Qty : 1095 Nos)**
Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs on 15-09-2023**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Chief Materials Manager / Construction Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/334/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public are hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the schedule 'B' property from its owner **1) Mr. K. ASGHAR BASHA, 2) Mr. K. ANWAR BASHA, 3) Mrs. K. IRSHAD BEGUM, 4) Mr. K. AKBAR BASHA, 5) Mrs. K. MUSHTARY BEGUM, 6) Mrs. K. MUMTAZ BEGUM,** all the sons and daughters of Late. Mr. K Abdul Rasheed & Late. Mrs. M. Habibunnisa, **No. 2 to 6 duly represented by their brother registered GPA Holder No. 1 Mr. K. ASGHAR BASHA.** Anyone having any claim, share or interest in the schedule A & B property shall lodge their claims with Original documents with the undersigned **within 07 days** from the date of Publication of this Public Notice. If no claims are lodged **within 07 days** of time it is presumed that **Mr. K. ASGHAR BASHA & others** are having valid & marketable title to the schedule 'A & B' property and my client will proceed with the purchase of schedule 'B' property.
SCHEDULE- 'A' PROPERTY [ENTIRE PROPERTY]
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Municipal No. **New 760,** (earlier known as Salt Skin Mandy, T.P. No. 524, New T.P. No. 475), Situated at **Periyarnagar, West of Nagawara Road, in Deverajeevanahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore,** presently falls under BBMP Ward No. 48, Muneshwara Nagar, Bangalore, and the unique Property ID (PID) No. allotted to the property is 93-1-760, the same being:
Bounded as follows:
East by : Earlier Land belonging to Cholavaram Hajee Zainulabideen Saheb Now Private Property, **West by :** Earlier Common Land belonging to Salt Skin Mandies Now Landlord's Property, **North by :** Road, **South by :** Poor People's Quarters Now Private Property,
MEASURING :
East to West : 100 (One Hundred) Feet,
North to South : 18(Eighteen) Feet,
&
East to West : 100 (One Hundred) Feet,
North to South : 32(Thirty Two) Feet,
Totally measuring 100 x 50 = 5000 square Feet
SCHEDULE- 'B' PROPERTY [PROPERTY INTENDING TO PURCHASE]
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being the North-East Portion of Municipal No. **New 760,** (earlier known as Salt Skin Mandy, T.P. No. 524, New T.P. No. 475), Situated at **Periyarnagar, West of Nagawara Road, in Deverajeevanahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore,** presently falls under BBMP Ward No. 48, Muneshwara Nagar, Bangalore, and the unique Property ID (PID) No. allotted to the property is 93-1-760, the same being:
BOUNDED as follows:
East by : Earlier Land belonging to Cholavaram Hajee Zainulabideen Saheb Now Private Property, **West by :** Remaining Portion of the Same Property belonging to Mr. Riyaz Ahmed, **North by :** Road, **South by :** Remaining Portion of the Same Property,
MEASURING :
East to West : 70.0 (Seventy) Feet
North to South : 27.0 (Twenty Seven) Feet.
The statutory particulars are - in all totally measuring 1890 square feet of Site Area together with built up area of 18 (Eighteen) Squares of AC Sheet Premises, Red Oxide Flooring, doors and windows of jungle wood, cement with brick walls with electricity connection thereon along with all the rights, liberties, privileges, appurtenances, etc., both underneath or above the surface thereon.
SYED GHOUSE PASHA
HMS LAWYERS NEST, ADVOCATES,
No. 1, 'Syed Manzil', 13th Cross, 1st Stage, Pillanna Garden, Sagayapuram, Bangalore-84.
Mobile : 99455-69486.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the General Public that my client **SURESH.B** S/o Sri.Bhaktha, residing at No.18, 2nd Main, Muneshwara Layout, Kodichikkanahalli, B.G.Road, Bangalore-560 076, Aadhaar No.9559 5994 2558 has lost the original Sale Deed dated:17.12.2018, vide Document No.BGR-1-06859/2018-19, Book-I, stored in C.D.No. BGRD341, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Begur, Bangalore which is executed by Mrs.Jayamma @ Jayarakkini Alias P. Jayam and others in favour of Mr.Amanulla Khan-my client's vendor in favour of my client and same was lost on 04.07.2023, while travelling in Begur and I tried to trace out same but failed to trace out the same and my client has lodged a complaint on 29.08.2023 before Begur Police, Bangalore.
If anyone finding the above original title deed is requested to hand over the same to the undersigned within **seven (7) days** from hereof and my client will assure of appropriate reward to such person:
M.R.REVANNA, Advocate
No.264, 1st Floor, Behind Ganesh Temple
Begur Road, Bommanahalli
Bangalore-560068. Ph : 99806 28324

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients have interested to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owner Sri. Lakshmikantha. S S/o. Sri. Seethrama Reddy. T, residing at No. 58, 2nd cross, Kathariguppe Village, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560 085.
If any persons having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.
SCHEDULE
Residential Vacant Southern Portion of Plot bearing No.9, bearing BBMP khata No. 1988/10/128/2,3/9/1 formed in converted Sy. Nos. 128/2 & Sy. No. 128/3 (vide conversion orders No.ALN(ASH)SR19/2013-14 and No. ALN(ASH)SR80/2013-14, dated 31-01-2014 dated 31-01-2014 , measuring East to West 44 Ft. and North to South 30 Ft. in Total measuring 1320 Sq. Ft. (out of 2200 Sq. ft) in the Layout Known as "DRB SANNIDHI", situated at Kudlu Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk and bounded on :- East By : Site No. 10, West By : 40 feet Road, North By : Remaining portion of site No. 9, South By: 30 Feet Road.
MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates, # 96, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore- 68, Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 29-08-2023

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
(CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP)
Plot No.12&13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-58. Fax: 080-28094180, Ph: 080-28090186, 4541
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE
CORRIGENDUM-II Dated: 28.08.2023
On behalf of President of India, **Sealed Item rate E-Tenders** is invited online from Contractors of appropriate class for the following work in NIT by **Group Head,** CMG, ISTRAC, ISRO, Peenya, Bengaluru-58(Ph:2809 4541/4186).

Name of work	**Servicing of ACBs and MCCBs of Schneider Electric make installed in IDSN Campus, Bylalu Village, Bengaluru.**
E-Tender Notice	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/E-TN-27/ 2023-2024, DATED: 27.07.2023**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 22.83 Lakhs**
Tender Document Details	**E-Tender**
Period of Completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	**4 months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	From 16.00 Hrs. on 28.07.2023 to 12.08.2023 till 16.00 Hrs. Extended up to 23.08.2023 till 16.00 Hrs. **Further extended up to 05.09.2023 till 16.00 Hrs.**
Bid Clarification	From 11.00 Hrs. on 29.07.2023 to 13.08.2023 till 16.00 Hrs. Extended up to 24.08.2023 till 16.00 Hrs. **Further extended up to 06.09.2023 till 16.00 Hrs.**
Last date & time for reply to Bid Clarifications	14.08.2023 up to 16.00 Hrs. Extended up to 25.08.2023 till 16.00 Hrs. **Further extended up to 07.09.2023 till 16.00 Hrs.**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**15.08.2023 up to 16.00 Hrs.** Extended up to 26.08.2023 till 16.00 Hrs. **Further extended up to 08.09.2023 till 16.00 Hrs.**
Due date and time of opening of tenders.	**16.08.2023 after 11.00 Hrs.** Extended up to 28.08.2023 till 11.00 Hrs. **Further extended up to 11.09.2023 till 11.00 Hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 45,660.00**

Interested tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)** for eligibility criteria and other details from website **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**
Sd/- Group Head, CMG

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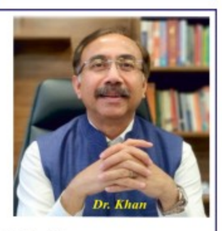
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Min. of 3 yrs Exp. in Welfare & HR activities in a reputed org.
Interested candidates with relevant qualification and experience kindly apply to the email id mail4jobseekers@gmail.com within 10 days from the date of this advertisement.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME
I, SRINIVAS, Residing at No.31, Krishna Meadows, Askihal, Raichur-584101, have changed my name from Srinivas to Srinivas.G, vide affidavit dated 28-08-2023 before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bangalore.
I, KARTHIK.M, R/a No.24/57, 4th Cross, B Main, Muneshwara Block, P.G.Halli, Bangalore-560003, hereby state that my Father's name has been wrongly mentioned as Mohan Kumar.S in my Driving licencse, but his correct name is Mani vide affidavit dt: 26.07.2023 sworn before Notary S.R.Paramashivaiah, B'luru

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF THE XVI ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-12)
O.S NO. 6019/2022
Hg: 22/09/2023
Between
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, and branch office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 through its Authorised representative.
Mr. Rohith Ali M ...Plaintiff
And
M/s. Building Control Solutions INDIA Pvt. Ltd. & another ...Defendants
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendants :
1. Building Control Solutions INDIA Pvt. Ltd., No. 794, 12th Main, 1st Cross, HAL 2nd Stage, Indira Nagar Ward No. 72, Bangalore- 560001.
2. Satyanarayanan N.
S/o. Sivaraman Narayanan, Aged about 53 Years, B2, Sai Colony, Belanthur, Kadugodi, Bangalore- 560067.
Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 5,11,424.36/-** along with interest at the rate of 15% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the XVI Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru **(C.C.H.-12),** in person or by a pleader, on the **22nd day of September, 2023** at **11:00 AM** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 18th day of August, 2023 at Bangalore.
By Order of the Court
Assistant Registrar
Hon'ble City Civil Court
Bengaluru
Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 01.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Basuthkar Vivaswath Rao, S/o. Basuthkar Jagadeeshwar Rao, R/o. H.No: 72, Ground Floor, 1st Main Road, Amarjyothi layout, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560094, Changed my Name to Vivaswath Rao, Dated 25-08-2023 before Notary & Advocate V.V.Radha Krishna (15-22-026/2011) Regd. No.2527.
WE, ABDUL Azeez & Afreen Sabah, R/a No.25, 2nd Cross, Zafrulla Layout, Erannapalya Main Road, Nagwara Village, Bangalore North, Karnataka-560045 have changed our minor daughter's name from Manhaa to Manhaa Daneen vide affidavit dt: 17.08.2023 sworn before Notary Udaykumar.K, B'luru.

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF THE XXXI ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-14)
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 7329 OF 2019
BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd.,
a body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed as a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara-390007. And having its Branch office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 4/10, 1st Floor Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Road, Bangalore- 560068
And represented by its POA Holder and Collection Manager Mr. Pramodh G S/o Gurumallappa Age: 44 years
...PLAINTIFF
AND
Mr.Yaram Uthant
...DEFENDANT
To,
Defendant :
Mr. Yaram Uthant
aged about 48 years, Son of Satyanayana yaram R/ at Site No. 01, Aarna Enclave, Sai Layout Near Maruti Suzuki Showroom, jigala Road, Attibele, Bangolre-562107
Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 & 2 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of **Rs. 14,65,801/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Sixty Five Thousand Eight Hundred One Only)** as together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court, in person or by a pleader on **10.10.2023** at **11.00 am** to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined exparte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 23rd day of August, 2023.
By order of the court
Asst. Registrar
City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Advocates for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES AHAMED,
B.M. KUSHALAPPA,
Advocates, No.4(10/2), West Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore- 560001.

Scientists finally finish sequencing 'weird' male Y chromosome

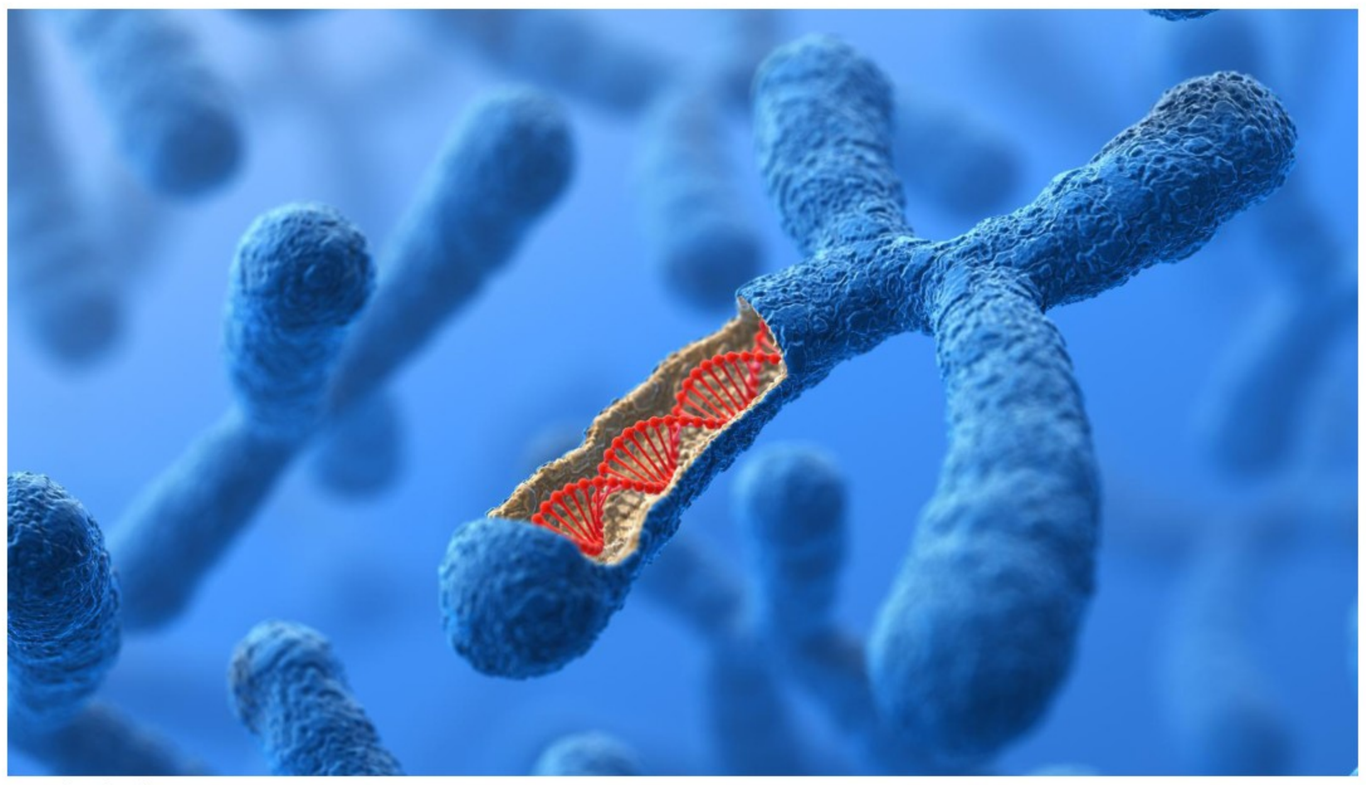
The Y is the last human chromosome to have been sequenced end-to-end, or T2T (telomere-to-telomere). Even with long-read technology, assembling the DNA bits was often ambiguous, and researchers had to make several attempts at difficult regions – particularly the highly repetitive region

Jenny Graves

The Y chromosome is a never-ending source of fascination (particularly to men) because it bears genes that determine maleness and make sperm. It's also small and seriously weird; it carries few genes and is full of junk DNA that makes it horrendous to sequence.

However, new "long-read" sequencing techniques have finally provided a reliable sequence from one end of the Y to the other. The paper describing this Herculean effort has been published in *Nature*.

The findings provide a solid base to explore how genes for sex and sperm work, how the Y chromosome evolved, and whether - as predicted - it will disappear in a few million years.



3D render of Y Chromosomes. GETTY IMAGES

Making baby boys

We have known for about 60 years that specialised chromosomes determine birth sex in humans and other mammals. Females have a pair of X chromosomes, whereas males have a single X and a much smaller Y chromosome.

The Y chromosome is male-determining because it bears a gene called SRY, which directs the development of a ridge of cells into a testis in the embryo. The embryonic testes make male hormones, and these hormones direct the development of male features in a baby boy.

Without a Y chromosome and a SRY gene, the same ridge of cells develops into an ovary in XX embryos. Female hormones then direct the development of female features in the baby girl.

A DNA junkyard

The Y chromosome is very different from X and the 22 other chromosomes of the human genome. It is smaller and bears few genes (only 27 compared to about 1,000 on the X).

These include SRY, a few genes required to make sperm, and several genes that seem to be critical for life - many of which have partners on the X. Many Y genes (including the sperm genes RBMY and DAZ) are present in multiple copies. Some occur in weird loops in which the sequence is inverted and genetic accidents that duplicate or delete genes are common.

The Y also has a lot of DNA sequences that don't seem to contribute to traits. This "junk DNA" is comprised of highly repetitive sequences that derive from bits and pieces of old viruses, dead genes and very simple runs of a few bases repeated over and over.

This last DNA class occupies big chunks of the Y that literally glow in the dark; you can see it down the microscope because it preferentially binds fluorescent dyes.

Why the Y is weird

Why is the Y like this? Blame evolution.

We have a lot of evidence that 150 million years ago the X and Y were just a pair of ordinary chromosomes (they still are in birds and platypuses). There were two copies - one from each parent - as there are for all chromosomes.

Then SRY evolved (from an ancient gene with another function) on one of these two chromosomes, defining a new proto-Y. This proto-Y was forever confined to a testis, by definition, and subject to a barrage of mutations as a result of a lot of cell division and little repair.

The proto-Y degenerated fast, losing about 10 active genes per million years, reducing the number from its original 1,000 to just 27. A small "pseudoautosomal" region at one end retains its original form and is identical to its erstwhile partner, the X.

There has been great debate about whether this degradation continues, because at this rate the whole human Y would disappear in a few million years (as it already has in some rodents).

Sequencing Y was a nightmare

The first draft of the human genome was completed in 1999. Since then, scientists have managed to sequence all the ordinary chromosomes, including the X, with just a few gaps. They've done this using short-read sequencing, which involves chopping the DNA into little bits of a hundred or so bases and reassembling them like a jigsaw.

> The Y chromosome is male-determining because it bears a gene called SRY, which directs the development of a ridge of cells into a testis in the embryo

But it's only recently that new technology has allowed sequencing of bases along individual long DNA molecules, producing long-reads of thousands of bases. These longer reads are easier to distinguish and can therefore be assembled more easily, handling the confusing repetitions and loops of the Y chromosome.

The Y is the last human chromosome to have been sequenced end-to-end, or T2T (telomere-to-telomere). Even with long-read technology, assembling the DNA bits was often ambiguous, and researchers had to make several attempts at difficult regions - particularly the highly repetitive region.

So what's new on the Y?

Spoiler alert - the Y turns out to be just as weird as we expected from decades of gene mapping and the previous sequencing.

A few new genes have been discovered, but these are extra copies of genes that were already known to exist in multiple copies. The border of the pseudoautosomal region (which is shared with the X) has been pushed a bit further toward the tip of the Y chromosome.

We now know the structure of the centromere (a region of the chromosome that pulls copies apart when the cell divides), and have a complete readout of the complex mixture of repetitive sequences in the fluorescent end of the Y.

But perhaps the most important outcome is how useful the findings will be for scientists all over the world.

Some groups will now examine the details of Y genes. They will look for sequences that might control how SRY and the sperm genes are expressed, and to see whether genes that have X partners have retained the same functions or evolved new ones.

Others will closely examine the repeated sequences to determine where and how they originated, and why they were amplified. Many groups will also analyse the Y chromosomes of men from different corners of the world to detect signs of degeneration, or recent evolution of function.

It's a new era for the poor old Y.

(Jenny Graves is distinguished professor of genetics and Vice-Chancellor's Fellow, La Trobe University, Melbourne. This article is republished from The Conversation.*)*

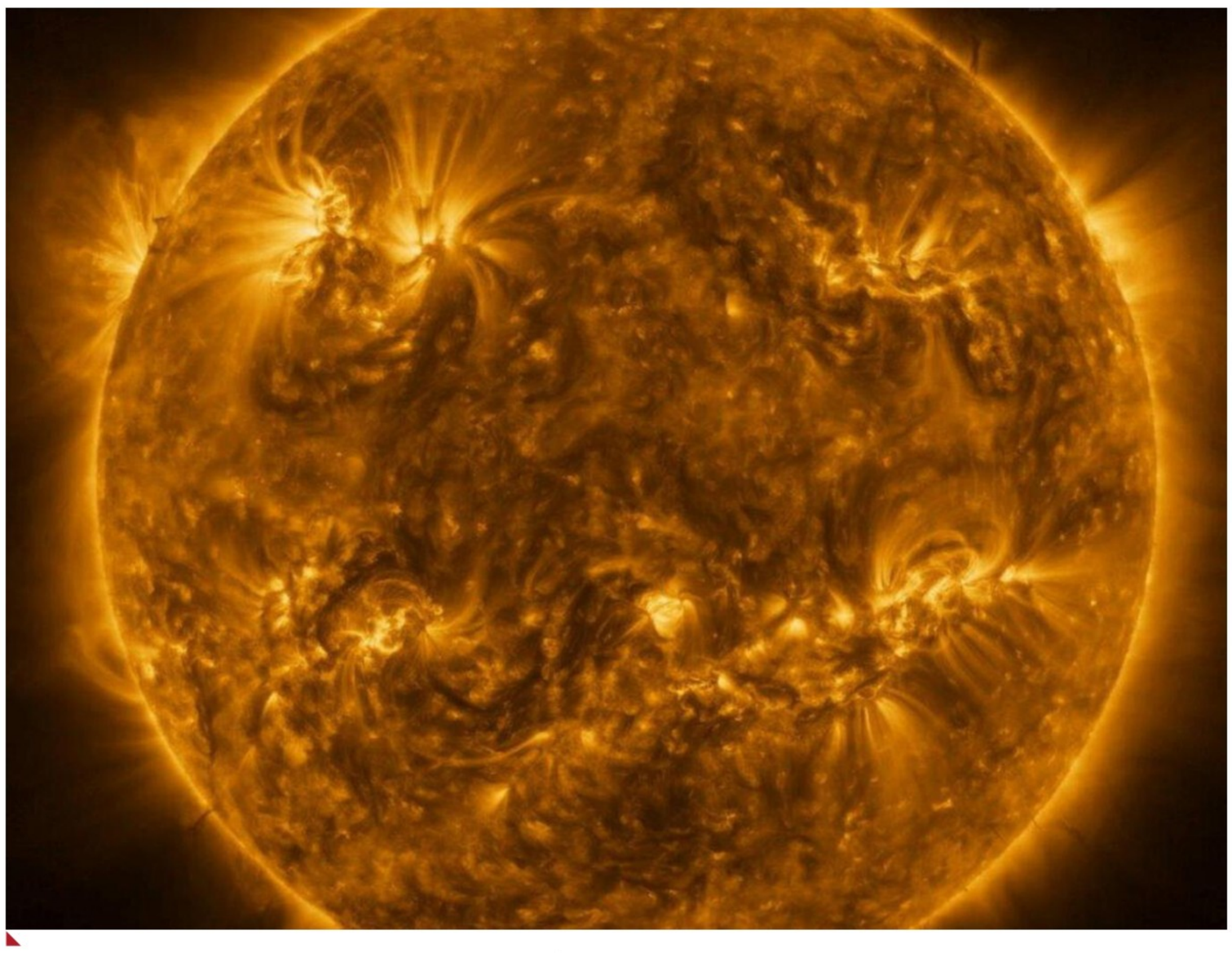
THE GIST

The Y chromosome is different from X and the 22 other chromosomes of the human genome. It is smaller and bears few genes. Many Y genes are present in multiple copies. Some occur in weird loops in which the sequence is inverted and genetic accidents that duplicate or delete genes are common

It's only recently that new technology has allowed sequencing of bases along individual long DNA molecules, producing long-reads of thousands of bases. These longer reads are easier to distinguish and can therefore be assembled more easily, handling the confusing repetitions and loops of the Y chromosome

After sequencing the Y chromosome we now know the structure of the centromere and have a complete readout of the complex mixture of repetitive sequences in the fluorescent end of the Y

BIG SHOT



The sun's upper atmosphere, the corona, as seen by the Solar Orbiter spacecraft in extreme ultraviolet light on March 7, 2023. The Indian Space Research Organisation will launch India's first space mission to study the sun's atmosphere, Aditya L1, on September 2, 2023. ESA, NASA

QUESTION CORNER

How blotting paper works

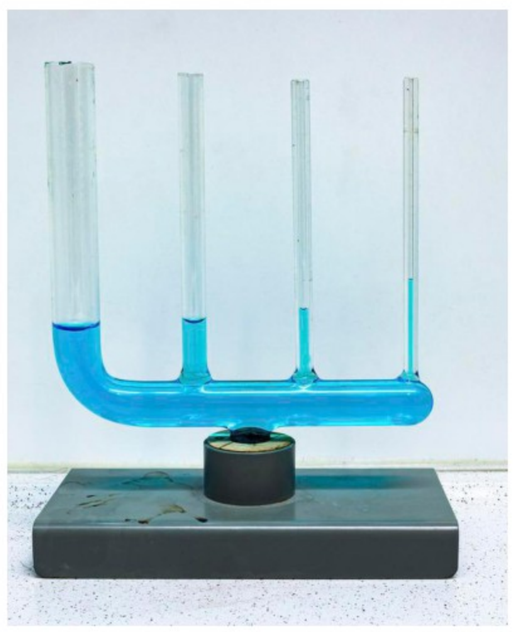
R. Sudarshan

Q: How does a blotting paper absorb ink?

A: A blotting paper absorbs ink by capillary action, which is a natural phenomenon exhibited by liquids in their attempt to reduce surface tension.

Any thin tube with a very fine bore – say, less than 1 mm – is called a capillary tube. When such a tube is immersed in a liquid, the liquid rises inside the tube to a level higher than that outside it. Only liquids which have an angle of contact lower than 90 degrees will rise. Other liquids, like mercury, will dip.

Blotting paper is made of cellulose obtained from the pulp of cotton linter, wood or straw. A purified pulp paste is directly pressed to form blotting paper sheets without any treatment, so as to incorporate microscopic capillaries. When such paper is placed in ink, water or any other aqueous solution, the solution immediately enters into these capillaries and spreads all over the sheet. Capillary action is also responsible for many common phenomena in our everyday life. It helps plants raise the sap from the roots to the top through the stem. The action also makes kerosene or oil in wick-stoves come up to the wick tip, where it is burnt.



An experiment demonstrating capillary action. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

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science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

WEDNESDAY
August 30, 2023

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Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Department of
Women & Child Development

Sri D K Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Sri Siddaramaiah,
Hon'ble Chief Minister and
Smt Lakshmi R Hebbalkar,
Hon'ble Minister for Women & Child Welfare, Disabled and Senior Citizens Empowerment Participated in the Gruha lakshmi scheme inaugural ceremony.

A BOLD STEP TOWARDS WOMEN SELF-RELIANCE

ಗೃಹಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ

Official launch of direct transfer of

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per month

Under Gruhalakshmi Scheme to the account of the head of approximately 1.28 crore families

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Place: Maharaja College Ground, Mysuru

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City records its hottest August day in 10 years

On Monday, the maximum temperature touched 32.6° Celsius, which was 4.5° over the normal

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the last week, the temperature has consistently been above 30° Celsius in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

According to India Meteorological Department, light to normal rainfall is expected in Bengaluru later this week

For almost a week now, people of Bengaluru have been complaining about the sweltering heat in the city as mercury levels continued to go up. On Monday, Bengaluru recorded its hottest August day in a decade as the temperature touched 32.6° Celsius, which was 4.5° over the normal, according to the data available with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Bengaluru.

The data shows that the previous highest was in 2012, on August 24, when the maximum temperature was 32.4° Celsius. The mean temperature for the city in August is around 28.1° Celsius based on the climatological information between 1991 and 2020. In the last week, the temperature has consistently been above 30° Celsius in Bengaluru.

Along with monsoon deficiency, the absence of westerlies or the winds blowing from the western direction has led to an increase in temperature this month, the weatherman said.

From June this year, the seasonal rainfall in Bengaluru has been recorded as 226 mm and a departure of -105 mm, by the IMD.

"About 3.1 km above the sea level, in the troposphere, the presence of westerlies will result in cloudy conditions. During such conditions, the temperature does rise usually. But, this time, the winds are only blowing from the northwest direction and hence, the temperature has gone up," said A. Prasad, scientist at IMD Bengaluru.

Expected to come down

However, the weather trends are going to change in the next few weeks, Mr. Prasad said. "The temperature is unlikely to jump further. It will gradually come down in the next few days as above-normal rainfall is expected throughout the State," he said. For the next two days too, rain and thunder showers are likely to occur in a few places in interior Karnataka and rain in a few places over coastal Karnataka.

Even in Bengaluru, light to normal rainfall is expected later this week. While it has been predicted that there will be a good amount of rainfall on Friday, during the weekend, there will be light rainfall for two days.

On Tuesday, the temperature hovered around a maximum of 30.6° Celsius in the city.

Unemployed man arrested for robbing home-alone woman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The HSR Layout police have arrested a 25-year-old unemployed man for robbing gold valuables from a home-alone woman after attacking her in broad daylight last Monday.

His targets

The accused, identified as Joshua Irudhayaraj, a resident of S.G. Palya, was an alcoholic and spendthrift, the police said. Desperate to make quick money, he had decided to rob home-alone women, said the police. The accused used to watch women who would come out of houses to drop their children to school. He would zero in on women who held a key in their hand. This was to confirm that they were alone at home, according to DCP C.K. Baba. The accused would then follow the victims, attack them and rob their valuables.

Using a similar *modus operandi*, the accused followed the victim who returned home after dropping her daughter at the school bus pick up point. Her husband, who worked in a private firm at Bommasandra, had gone to office.

After confirming her house, the accused knocked on the door posing as a courier delivery personnel. As the victim opened the door, the accused threw chilli powder into her eyes and attacked her with a knife before robbing her gold valuables weighing 45 grams.

The accused returned home and with the help of his friends, pawned the valuables and spent the money.

CCTV footage

Meanwhile, the HSR Layout police, who had taken up the case, swung into action and analysed the CCTV camera footage from in and around the locality. In one of the footage, the police found that the accused was watching over women at a tea shop. Following the leads, the police zeroed in on Joshua and recovered the valuables from him.

INBRIEF

Class X student found dead

A 14-year-old class X student was found dead in her apartment complex, a 12-floor building, at Bellandur on Tuesday, the police said. According to the police, the girl, Jessica D., returned from school early and reportedly went to the terrace. She was later found dead on the ground. The police said her father is a software engineer and her mother a schoolteacher. No one was at home when the incident occurred. Her school authorities reportedly told the parents that Jessica used to be absent from classes.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated August 30, we examine how significant metro connectivity gaps that extend over several miles in Bengaluru can be filled.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (August 30, Wednesday), the following articles are available:

- Dissecting Pakistan's cypher saga **bit.ly/pakistancypher**
- Scientists finally finish sequencing 'weird' male Y chromosome **bit.ly/malechromosomege**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

BBMP to build 56 permanent restrooms for pourakarmikas

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Pourakarmika unions have been demanding such a facility at all the 600-odd mustering points for many years now

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has decided to build permanent restrooms for pourakarmikas at 56 locations in the city. This is over and above around 240 makeshift Suvidha cabins in the city.

Pourakarmika unions have been demanding permanent restrooms at all the 600-odd mustering points across Bengaluru for many years now. This is for the first time that the civic body has taken up a project to build permanent restrooms. These restrooms will have a place for the pourakarmikas to sit, rest, eat food, and a drinking water point, apart from a changing room, a toilet, and designated racks for them to keep their brooms and other equipment.

The existing Suvidha cabins, made of metal ship containers, also have most of these facilities except a place for the workers to sit, rest, and eat. As a result, pourakarmikas sitting on the floor outside Suvidha cabins and having breakfast is a common sight across Bengaluru. Moreover, these cabins heat up during summer and are almost unusable, and this prompted the pourakarmika unions to demand better restrooms.

"In the first phase, we have identified 56 locations where land is available to build these restrooms. As and when it is possible, we will take up construction of restrooms at other mustering points as well. We will try to make use of the existing infrastructure, such as in anganwadi kendras and schools run by the civic body, to renovate and provide a restroom. The upcoming dry waste collection centres (DWCCs) can also house these restrooms," said K. Harish Kumar, Special Commissioner, Solid Waste Management, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

Nirmala M., president, BBMP Pourakarmikara Sangha and a pourakarmika herself, said, "These restrooms need to be built at the mustering points, and not wherever space and land is available. Though the civic body has arranged certain facilities, like toilets and restrooms, in existing infrastructure nearby, like schools and hospitals, for use of pourakarmikas, in many places, we are not allowed to use the toilets that are assigned to us."

It is not enough if the BBMP just assigns these facilities in existing infrastructure, it also needs to ensure that pourakarmikas are allowed to use them, she said.

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BBMP engineer caught while accepting bribe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta officials on Tuesday trapped an assistant executive engineer of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) while he was allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹10,000 from a contractor for an official favour.

According to officials, the accused officer, Shivanna, working with the Solid Waste Management department at Chamarajpet, had demanded ₹50,000 from a contractor for signing documents to release the pending bills and was caught while accepting the advance amount.

Based on the complaint, a team of officials arrested the accused under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Another case

In another case, the Lokayukta police arrested a head constable attached to Bengaluru district cybercrime station while he was allegedly accepting a bribe from a woman to help drop her name from a chargesheet and to help her son get bail.

The accused, Lokesh, was allegedly caught while accepting ₹25,000 from the woman, identified as Roopa. According to officials, Lokesh had demanded ₹50,000 from Roopa as she was booked in a Prevention of Atrocities Act case by the Attibele police while her son Ramesh was arrested on the charge of rape and is in judicial custody.

The accused promised to help drop her name from the chargesheet while helping her son to get bail.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 30	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:32
RISE 18:13	SET 05:09
THURSDAY, AUG. 31	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:31
RISE 19:00	SET 06:11
FRIDAY, SEP. 01	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:31
RISE 19:45	SET 07:12

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	26
Mysuru	32	23
Bengaluru	31	23

Bengaluru Today
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C A slight warm and humid weather to prevail.Night will be pleasant. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Last date of submission of applications by applicants is 20th September, 2023
Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal Officers to PESB is 29th September, 2023
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GENERAL

Coal India Limited (CIL), a Maharatna company, is to transform from a single product to a multifarious business organization in the coming years. To achieve this vision, CIL, an equal opportunity employer, is looking for bright young Engineering graduates to join the manpower of the single largest coal-producing company in the world.
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Date: 25.08.2023
General Manager (RP & PM)

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27th September, 2023.
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The eggs to be imported from India to Sri Lanka

92.1 million eggs. The decision was taken to counter the fluctuation in its prices and make them affordable, according to Sri Lankan Cabinet spokesman Bandula Gunawardena. PTI

Grant announced by govt. for technical textiles startups

50 in ₹ lakh. Rajeev Saxena, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles informed that the Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles will be provided for 18 months. PTI

The decrease in LPG price ahead of the State elections

200 in ₹ per cylinder. A 14.2-kg LPG cylinder costs ₹1,103 in New Delhi now. It will cost ₹903. The price cuts aim to counter the cheaper LPG promise of the Congress in upcoming elections. PTI

The decline in plastic exports in July due to lower demand

14.6 in percentage. Plastics exports from India declined to $956 million in July mainly due to decreasing demand in markets like the U.S. and Europe, as per the Plastics Export Promotion Council. PTI

People killed in clashes in Ethiopia's Amhara since July

183 people. The UN human rights office informed that Amhara fighters have been resisting efforts by the federal government to disband them. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Dissecting Pakistan's cypher saga

Pakistani politics, scarred by its history of coups, coalitions and assassinations is by nature, rife with conspiracy-theories. Chief among these theories is that its political leadership is being pulled by one external string or another. Yet at this point, it is hard to look away from the cold hard facts

WORLD INSIGHT

Suhasini Haidar

The setting up of a special court in Pakistan to look into the cases filed against former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his senior cabinet Ministers, including former Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, under the Official Secrets Act (OSA) is sharpening the spotlight over the mysterious diplomatic "cypher" that has held Pakistani polity in thrall for more than a year. On Tuesday, he received a reprieve in one case that he was arrested for (the 'Toshakhana' case) but remains in Attock jail over the OSA case, for which he will be presented in court on Wednesday. As the case unfolds, it is clear that it could have a lasting impact on Pakistani politics and its relationship with the military. It also bears closer scrutiny for India, Bangladesh and other countries in South Asia, ahead of the elections next year.

In turmoil: Supporters of Pakistan's former PM Imran Khan throw stones towards police during a protest in Peshawar, Pakistan on May 10. REUTERS

THE GIST

Last week, police in Pakistan arrested Shah Mehmood Qureshi and charged him along with Mr. Khan under Sections 5 and 9 of the Official Secrets Act for illegally retaining a diplomatic cable sent by the Pakistani Ambassador to the U.S. Asad Majeed Khan in March 2022.

Earlier this month, the contents of the cypher were finally reproduced by U.S. web portal "The Intercept". In the cable, which described a meeting between State department officials and the Pakistan Embassy in Washington on March 7, 2022, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Donald Lu reportedly expressed the U.S.'s deep disapproval of Imran Khan's visit to Moscow on February 24, which coincided with Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Mr. Lu also purportedly said, "I think if the no-confidence vote (set for April 9, 2022) against the Prime Minister (Imran Khan) succeeds, all will be forgiven in Washington because the Russia visit is being looked at as a decision by the Prime Minister".

Allegations of conspiracy

Last week, police in Pakistan arrested Mr. Qureshi and charged him along with Mr. Khan under Sections 5 and 9 of the Official Secrets Act (a British-era law dating 1923 that India shares) for illegally retaining a diplomatic cable sent by the Pakistani Ambassador to the U.S. (who then became Foreign Secretary) Asad Majeed Khan in March 2022. The FIR also accused the leaders of misusing and misrepresenting the cable's contents with "malafide intention", as the leaders had used the cable as proof of a "foreign conspiracy" behind the no-confidence vote in parliament, that Imran Khan subsequently lost. While Mr. Khan and Mr. Qureshi deny leaking the cypher, they openly publicised it during the run-up to the no-confidence vote and after, revealing details of the note in public rallies, and even held a cabinet meeting to discuss the cypher, where its contents were reportedly shown to Ministers on a "teleprompter".

Earlier this month, the contents of the cypher were finally reproduced by U.S. web portal "The Intercept", and while the U.S. State department spokesperson found no corroboration of any conspiracy in the conversation between Ambassador Majeed Khan and the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Donald Lu, he didn't deny the conversation outright either. In the cable describing a meeting between State department officials and the Pakistan Embassy in Washington on March 7, 2022, Mr. Lu reportedly expressed the U.S.'s deep disapproval of Imran Khan's visit to Moscow on February 24, which coincided with Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine. While there is little to show that Mr. Khan knew the invasion would be launched while he was in Russia, there is no question that he approved of a "neutral position" in the conflict, and even praised India's steadfast stand on engaging with Russia throughout the conflict. Referring to the U.S.'s belief that the former PM, who was at odds with the Pakistani Military establishment on Ukraine was overly tilting towards Moscow, Mr. Lu purportedly said, "I think if the no-confidence vote (set for April 9, 2022) against the Prime Minister (Imran Khan) succeeds, all will be forgiven in Washington because the Russia visit is being looked at as a decision by the Prime Minister". According to the document, Mr. Lu further said that, "Otherwise, I think it will be tough going ahead."

Pakistani politics, scarred by its history of coups, coalitions and assassinations is by nature, rife with conspiracy-theories. Chief among these theories is that its political leadership is being pulled by one external string or another. Many of these theories are disbelieved, especially when accompanied by the kind of grandiose bombast that Imran Khan employed for the "cypher saga". Yet it is hard to look away from the cold hard facts of what followed the conversation between Mr. Lu and Mr. Majeed Khan, which may have tipped the scales in helping the Pakistani military establishment consolidate its role in the political events that followed.

The aftermath

As it happened, the no-confidence vote did succeed. Pakistan's policy towards Russia and Ukraine did show a perceptible move away from Moscow, particularly after Army Chief General Qamar Jawed Bajwa, speaking at an international security conference in Islamabad on April 2, 2022, slammed Russia's actions. In his speech, General Bajwa, openly opposing the line taken by Mr. Khan, and one clearly more palatable to the U.S. State department said the "Russian invasion against Ukraine [was] very unfortunate as thousands of people have been killed, millions made refugees and half of Ukraine destroyed". He said Russia's actions against a smaller country could not be condoned, and that Ukraine's defence of its territory had "given heart" to other countries, in a veiled comparison with India and Pakistan. In doing so, the Pakistani military has attempted once again to cast itself as the only credible power in Pakistan for the U.S. to engage with, especially as the U.S. seeks to counter the influence of China and Russia in South Asia.

Within days of the new government, formed by a coalition of non-PTI parties, including the Pakistan Muslim League (N) PML(N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), and headed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was sworn in on April 11, 2022, Washington's behaviour towards Pakistan also underwent a change. U.S. President Joe Biden had not once spoken to PM Imran Khan during his 15 months in office, despite several attempts by Mr. Khan's government to set up a call. It is worth noting that Mr. Biden is no stranger to Pakistan, and received the Hilal-e-Pakistan in 2008 from then President Zardari.

On May 18, 2022, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto met with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken in New York, the first of three official visits to the U.S. that year. A few weeks later, the U.S. mooted a plan at the Financial Action Task Force to take Pakistan off the greylist, that it had been on since 2018. Even as sanctions eased, floods struck Pakistan.

In September, President Biden met with PM Sharif at a function in New York, and commiserated about the damage from floods, accepting Pakistan's contention that they were caused by global warming and climate change.

The contacts have strengthened militarily too – General Bajwa spent a week in Washington before he retired in 2022, and shortly after General Asim Munir took over as Army Chief, the Commander of U.S. Central Command, General Michael Kurilla visited Islamabad in December 2022, and the U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley spoke to him over the telephone.

Earlier this month, reports of the two sides approving the renewal of the CIS-MOA foundational agreement between their militaries also showed that the Pakistan-U.S. engagement is on a surer footing. In addition, Pakistan's red carpet for the Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmitry Kuleba, who visited Islamabad in July, points to a big change in the country's policy, and appeared to confirm reports that Pakistan is helping Ukraine with weapons exports, at the prompting of the U.S..

A message to the subcontinent

What also emerges is the U.S.'s complete silence over the treatment meted out to Imran Khan by the opposition – over more than 100 cases filed against Mr. Khan including serious terror charges, his arrest and that of all senior opposition leaders, as well as over the OSA case against him and three cabinet ministers over the leak of the cypher, just as Pakistan heads for general elections.

The contrast couldn't be more stark to the U.S.'s behaviour with India's other South Asian neighbour Bangladesh. After sanctioning members of Sheikh Hasina's crack counter-terror force, the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), for alleged human rights violations, the U.S. State Department imposed a new visa policy for Bangladesh in May this year – any Bangladeshi official, judge, law enforcement officer or politician that was "found to be impeding or undermining free and fair elections" in Bangladesh would be ineligible for U.S. visas, along with their families. "Our view is that the defence of democracy is both necessary and essential for Bangladesh to continue to move forward as a leader in South Asia and around the world," said Mr. Lu, speaking to a Bangladeshi journalist shortly after the policy was declared. The message for PM Sheikh Hasina couldn't be more in contrast to the U.S.'s free pass to PM Sharif and the Pakistani caretaker government now in place. It is also a message New Delhi cannot choose to ignore, given that the stage events are playing out on, are India's backyard.

THE HINDU GROUP

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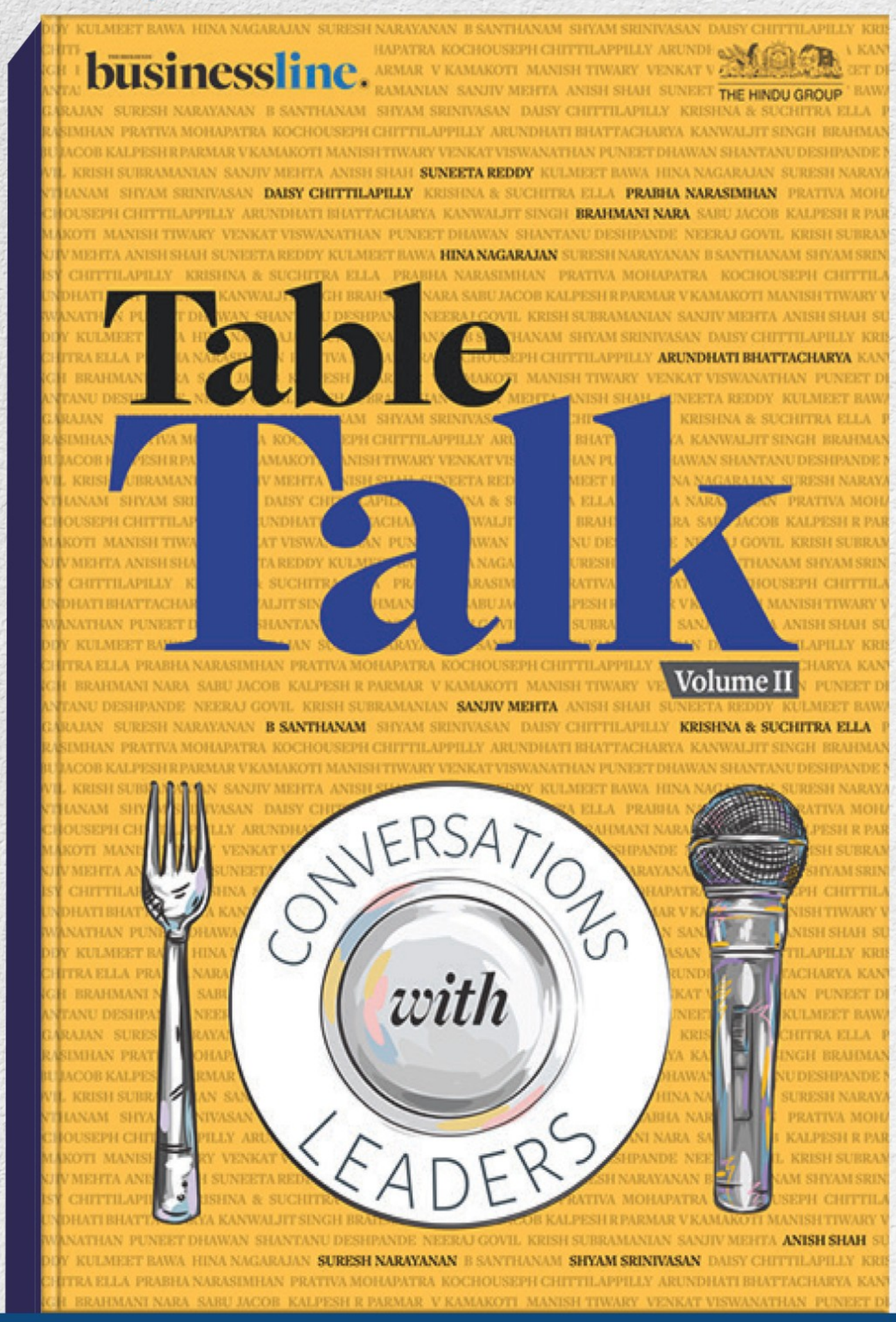

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Implementation of guarantee schemes proof of political will to fulfil poll promises, says CM

BJP making false charges as Cong. govt. is probing allegations of 40% commission: Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

On the occasion of the Congress government completing 100 days in office, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said his government had the political will that made it possible to fulfil the promises made to the people. The implementation of three guarantees and launch of the fourth guarantee 'Gruha Lakshmi' on Wednesday is a testimony to the Congress government's commitment.

Addressing mediapersons in Mysuru on Tuesday after offering a special puja with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at the temple of Goddess Chamundeshwari atop Chamundi Hills, he said: "The government did not face any kind of challenges in the last 100 days since it was confident in its belief and commitment. The party and the government had the political will that made it possible to start fulfilling the promises made in its election manifesto."

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaking to reporters in Mysuru on Tuesday. Minister for Women and Child Welfare Laxmi Hebbalkar and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar seen. M.A. SRIRAM

Unmindful of the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi mocking its guarantees and warnings that the government would go bankrupt if it implements the schemes, the government fulfilled its promises and successfully launched three guarantees, he said. Gruha Lakshmi is being launched in Mysuru on Wednesday will be one of the biggest government programmes in India, with over ₹32,000 crore being spent on a single programme, he said.

Dismissing the BJP's allegation of maladministration and corruption, Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "When the BJP was in power, it did not act against corruption. It is making false claims now as we are probing allegations of 40% commission, PSI recruitment scam and so on. While we were in the Opposition, we demanded a probe into allegations of 40% commission in government contracts, but the BJP refused. Now that the Congress has been elected to govern Karnataka, we are probing all such allegations."

Mr. Shivakumar said he and the Chief Minister visited the Chamundeshwari temple as 'both of us had prayed for the Congress to be elected to power in the State at the temple'. "Today, we have come to power and visited the temple to offer a puja on the occasion of the government completing 100 days in office." He informed that Gruha Jyothi has 1.4 crore beneficiaries, Anna Bhagya has 1.39 crore beneficiaries, and Shakti scheme has 46 crore women beneficiaries.

He dismissed claims of a rift between him and the Chief Minister. Intervening, Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "Relations with him (DKS) are only getting better ever since the Opposition started making false claims about us."

Administration has derailed in first 100 days of Cong. rule in State: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Alleging that the administration had derailed in the first 100 days of governance by the Congress and corruption had reached the level of "daylight robbery", the Opposition BJP on Tuesday brought out a book titled "*Kai Kotta Yojanegalu - Halitappida Adalitha* (Failed projects - Derailed administration)."

"The first 100 days of governance has clearly shown that the new dispensation has become directionless though it assumed office on the promise of reforming the system," alleged former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, addressing a press conference along with BJP State president Nalin Kumar Kateel after releasing the booklet in Bengaluru.

He accused the Congress Government of going back on its promise of providing clean administration and fighting corruption. "How can we think of clean administration and anti-corruption initiatives when there is massive corruption in transfer of officials? In fact, several key posts are literally being auctioned out for highest bidding officials," he alleged.

BJP leaders Basavaraj Bommai and Nalin Kumar Kateel at a press conference after releasing a book highlighting the failures of the Congress government, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Financial position

Accusing the government of failure in all key sectors, Mr. Bommai said the Congress government had contributed to the deterioration of the State's finances through borrowings to the tune of ₹8,000 crore and an additional tax of ₹35,000 crore. "We had somehow brought the finance sector back on track from the deficit position during the pandemic days to a position of presenting surplus budget. But Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has again taken it back to the pandemic days as he has presented a ₹12,000 crore-deficit Budget," he remarked.

"Already, we are feeling the impact as the payment of salary of government servants is getting delayed in various departments," he alleged and maintained that the development had come to a standstill.

Mr. Bommai maintained that development of private sector too had been hit and investors were in a dilemma over investing in Karnataka due to the alleged maladministration and power shortage.

The party on Tuesday brought out a book listing the 'failures' of Congress government

He accused the government of being dictatorial in its attitude and pursuing politics of vendetta. "The new dispensation has suppressed right to freedom of speech and freedom of press as it is filing false cases against those who try to find fault with it including journalists," he alleged.

On Cauvery water sharing

He alleged that the government had failed to protect the interests of farmers and people of the State with respect to the inter-State row over sharing of Cauvery river water. He wondered why the government had failed to approach the Supreme Court quickly to protect the interests of the State regarding the Cauvery row.

He declared that the BJP would fight against the failures of the government both inside and outside the legislature.

Out of power, BJP leaders have no work: Shettar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After ushering in big ticket schemes during the first 100 days in power, the Congress MLCs on Tuesday questioned the BJP's "chargesheet" against the Siddaramaiah-led government and alleged that "out of power, BJP leaders have no work, except levelling baseless charges against the government."

Leading the counter-attack against the BJP, former Chief Minister and Congress MLC Jagadish Shettar said: "There is no substance in releasing the chargesheet against the government, which has implemented guarantees promised to the electorate during the Assembly elections."

Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Shettar said:

Jagadish Shettar

"The condition the BJP is going through shows that it is without a leader. Let the BJP first elect the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly. Let the BJP be aware of leaders quitting the party and joining the Congress in the coming days."

Mr. Shettar quit the BJP for denying him ticket in the 2023 Karnataka Assembly elections.

KPCC working president Saleem Ahmed, who is also Chief Whip of the Congress in the Upper House of the Legislature, said the BJP leaders who have fear of probes ordered by the government with regard to scams in 40% commission in contract works and COVID-19 purchase of equipment, released the chargesheet to mislead public.

The guarantee schemes launched by the government will continue after the Lok Sabha polls next year.

"Guarantees are implemented not keeping in mind elections to the Lok Sabha next year," he said.

The NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi completed more than nine years in office but none of the promises such as bringing back black money, providing two crore jobs per year, and doubling of farmers' income have been fulfilled, Mr. Ahmed said.

Special court for land-grabbing cases will lose jurisdiction if owners are put in lawful possession of disputed land: High Court

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The special court for land-grabbing cases will lose jurisdiction to entertain a complaint when the landowners are put in possession of the land through a lawfully registered sale deed, as such issues would require adjudication as "a pure and simple suit for title" by the competent courts, said the High Court of Karnataka.

A Division Bench comprising Justice G. Narendar and Justice Vijaykumar A. Patil made these observations while hearing a petition filed by M.A. Mohammed Sanaullah and others from Devanahalli near Bengaluru.

The petitioners had questioned the legality of the proceedings initiated by the Forest Department in 2020 before the special court for land-grabbing cases under the provisions of the Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Act for allegedly grabbing forest lands.

Dismissed by courts

However, the High Court noted that a suit, filed by the Forest Department earlier seeking permanent injunction against the petitioners, was dismissed by the courts in Karnataka, and the apex court had remanded the suit back to the civil court for a decision afresh after affording due opportunity of leading evidence to the department.

While pointing out that the petitioners were in lawful possession of the disputed lands though a sale deed registered way back in 1977 and the sale in favour of the petitioners was preceded by four earlier sale deeds and an order of grant by the State, the Bench observed that "the special court has gone amiss and failed to consider this issue."

Prima facie reading of the definition of 'land grabbing', the Bench observed, would require a conscious act on the part of the land grabber in attempting to inject himself into the land or inject on to the land his nominee, be that under whatever guise, as a tenancy, lessee, etc.

"Thus, we are of the *prima facie* opinion that the possession of the petitioners even assuming for argument sake that the lands are indeed lands of the forest, the same would not constitute an act of land grabbing and the same is required to be adjudicated as a pure and simple title suit," the Bench observed.

While setting aside the special court's February 2023 order of taking cognisance against the petitioners, the Bench asked the special court to to formulate an issue regarding maintainability of the complaint and examine its jurisdiction to adjudicate the case based on the High Court's observations.

Three die in major fire in Haveri district

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

In a major fire that broke out at a cracker warehouse at Aladakatti village in Haveri district on Tuesday, three workers were charred to death and three, including a woman residing next to the warehouse, have been admitted in hospital.

The deceased have been identified as 45-year-old Dyamappa Olekar, 28-year-old Ramesh Barik and 28-year-old Shivalinga Akki of Katenahalli village who worked at the house.

And, 32-year-old Wasim Shafi Ahmed of Tegginkeri in Harihar taluk, who had come for welding work, reportedly jumped out of the building from the first floor to escape from the fire. He was found unconscious with a broken backbone. Along with him, another worker Sheru Malappa Kattimani, who too suffered injuries, has been admitted to hospital in Davangere.

The woman identified as Kalavati K.S., who resides next to the warehouse, fell sick after inhaling the smoke and has been admitted to the district hospital in Haveri.

The warehouse belongs to Bhoomika Distributors owned by Viresh Satenhalli of Haveri. He is said to have procured crackers worth over ₹1 crore for sales during the ensuing Ganesha festival and Deepavali.

INBRIEF

Outreach programme on financial literacy today

Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (Kassia) will organise an outreach programme on financial literacy on Wednesday. Sharanabasappa Darshanapur, Minister for Small Scale Industries and Public Enterprises, and Sudatta Mandal, Deputy Managing Director, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Mumbai, will inaugurate.

There will be a special address by Richard Vincent D'Souza, Secretary, Commerce and Industries Department (MSME and Mines), and Satyoki Rastogi, General Manager and Regional Head, SIDBI. The programme will be held in Kassia Auditorium at Vijayanagar in Bengaluru at 10.30 a.m.

Appointment letters given at Rozgar mela in Bengaluru

Kapil Moreshwar Patil, Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj, handed over appointment letters to new inductees during a Rozgar mela function held in Subsidiary Training Camp (STC), BSF campus, Bengaluru, on Monday.

The Rozgar mela was held by the Ministry of Home Affairs at 45 locations across the country to distribute appointment letters to the new recruits in various central armed police forces.

Speaking on this occasion, the Minister said the mela provides opportunities to the youth for their empowerment and participation in nation building. Appointment letters were handed over to 224 new recruits in Bengaluru.

Priyank Kharge says fact-checking unit will be apolitical, won't impinge on press freedom

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After the Editors' Guild of India voiced concern over Karnataka government's proposed fact-checking unit, IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge clarified on Tuesday that the unit would not attempt to "impinge upon the freedom of the press" and would have an "apolitical stance."

The Congress government had earlier cleared the formation of the fact-checking unit. The Guild had issued a statement on Sunday urging the government to "clearly specify the scope of and powers of the proposed fact-checking unit, as well as the governing mechanism under which it will operate". The unit should not become a tool to "clamp down on voices of dissent," it had warned.

In a message on social media platform X (earlier Twitter), Mr. Kharge said: "As acknowledged by the Editors' Guild of India, the online realm faces a challenge of misinformation and fake news, necessitating the implementation of measures to address this issue. I wish to reassure the esteemed organiaation that our fact-check unit will uphold an apolitical stance, devoid of bias, and will transparently explain the methodologies employed to the public. We are in the process of establishing independent bodies that will be enlisted to assist us in combatting fake news and misinformation."

He further said that the Government of Karnataka adheres to the ideologies of Basavanna and Babasaheb. "Rest assured, we will diligently follow the tenets of natural justice. Let it be clear that the establishment of this unit is in no way an attempt to impinge upon the freedom of the press," he said.

Case booked against unknown person for stealing ID of A-G

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An online fraudster posing as the Advocate-General sent a request to his friends seeking financial help. Based on the complaint filed by administrative officer Abhijin B., from the A-G's office, the central division cybercrime police registered a case against the unknown person charging him under Section 66C (identity theft) of the IT Act on Saturday.

The accused had misused the picture and name of the A-G, Shashi Kiran Shetty, on his WhatsApp profile and sent a link to the contact number of his friends seeking financial help. The fraud came to light when one of the friends contacted Mr. Shetty to confirm.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Mr. M. Dhanushkodi (58)
Assistant Engineer - Maintenance, The Hindu, Chennai
Passed away on 29-08-2023.
Address:
39/42, JK Achutha Flats, Akbar Sahib Street, Triplicane, Chennai-600005.
Ph: 8870725836

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, (Road Infrastructure - TEC Division),
Annex-3 Building-3 Room No. 09, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.

No: BBMP/EE/RI/TEC/PR/273/2023-24 Date: 29.08.2023

ADDENDUM-1

Ref: Tender Notification: EE/TEC/TEND/2/2023-24 Dated: 23.08.2023
With respect to above Tender Notification the following Addendum is issued

Sl. No.	Content of Tender Notification	To be read as
1	PG Degree in Diploma Management / Science/Social Science/Urban Planning/ Environmental Science/MSW/ Engineering from UGC Recognized University with more than 02 years experience in Disaster Management.	PG Degree in Disaster Management / Science/Social Science/Urban Planning/ Environmental Science/MSW/ Engineering from UGC Recognized University with more than 02 years experience in Disaster Management.
2	PG Degree in Diploma Management / Science/Social Science/Urban Planning/ Environmental Science/MSW/ Engineering from UGC Recognized University with at least 01 year and above experience in Disaster Management.	PG Degree in Disaster Management / Science/Social Science/Urban Planning/ Environmental Science/MSW/ Engineering from UGC Recognized University with at least 01 year and above experience in Disaster Management.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Traffic Engineering Cell Division, BBMP

FROM THE ARCHIVES

High alert: A BSF personnel stands guard on a street, a day before the fourth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, in Srinagar, on August 4. PTI

The Jammu and Kashmir bifurcation: an integration without integrity

The Constituent Assembly as the embodiment of constituent power is what creates and authorises, gives birth and grants the power to the legislative assembly. There is no equivalence between a Constituent Assembly and Legislative Assembly

Rajgopal Saikumar

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud is currently hearing a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of the special status to the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir. In this article, dated August 6, 2019, Rajgopal Saikumar questions the legality of reading down 'Constituent Assembly' to include even ' President's Rule'.

Yesterday the Ministry of Law and Justice issued a notification titled The Constitution (Application To Jammu And Kashmir) Order, 2019 overriding the Order of 1954, and in effect scrapping Article 370 of the Constitution. Nowhere in the world of constitutional-democracies can one see an executive government passing orders to amend the Constitution. This order lacks legality as well as moral legitimacy. I concur with the President of the Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Mehbooba Mufti's claim that the government's decision is illegal, based on insincere politics and constitutional abuse.

Let us backtrack to the political moves that have led to yesterday's notification: On June 20, 2018, under Article 92 of the Constitution of J&K, the State was placed under Governor's Rule after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) withdrew support to its alliance partnership with the PDP. Six months later, in December 2018, Governor's Rule got converted into President's Rule (Article 356 of the Indian Constitution).

Let us be clear about the implications of these tactical manoeuvres of carefully transferring power from a democratically elected Assembly, to Governor's Rule and then President's Rule. It implies that all the powers of the Government of the State are now vested in the Governor under the superintendence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Given these conditions of severe democratic deficit, the government wrote up an order scrapping Article 370, sent it to itself for "concurrence", and had it signed by the President.

On concurrence

Let us then turn to Article 370(3) which lays down the procedure to amend or repeal Article 370. It states that the President may by notification declare that the article shall cease to be operative provided that it is confirmed by the Constituent Assembly of the State before the President issues such notification. It says that only with the prior consent of the Constituent Assembly of J&K the presidential order will be valid. But the Constituent Assembly framed the Constitution of J&K and got dissolved. How then must we interpret Article 370(3) if the literal interpretation is not useful? By reading it in terms of its legislative history.

N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar who introduced the provision in the Constituent Assembly of India on October 17, 1949 states: "We have also agreed that the will of the people through the instrument of the Constituent Assembly will determine the Constitution of the State as well as the sphere of Union jurisdiction over the State…the President may, on the recommendation of that Constituent Assembly, issue an Order that this Article [370] shall either cease to be operative, or shall be operative only subject to such exceptions and modifications as may be specified by him. But before he issued any order of that kind, the recommendation of that Constituent Assembly will be a condition precedent."

A selective reading

To make a complicated legal history short, there was an acknowledgement that the Constituent Assembly, as a representative of the people of J&K, had to give concurrence before a Presidential Order is passed.

But how does the Home Minister Amit Shah read Article 370(3)? He has read down the words "Constituent Assembly" to mean "Legislative Assembly of the State"; having cleverly dissolved the Assembly and usurped its power, in effect it is the government that is giving solipsistic concurrence to itself. Such self-indulgent narcissism has led to short-circuiting the entire process in letter and spirit.

The reason the Notification lacks moral legitimacy is because of the way BJP has read down 'Constituent Assembly' to include even 'President's Rule'. More jurisprudentially, one needs to ask this: what is 'Constituent Assembly'? It is a body of representatives who are the embodiment of the 'constituent power' that is needed to co-constitute a nation-state into existence. So, at the core of constituent power is democratic consent. India derives its legitimacy from its Constitution, and the Indian Constitution in turn is legitimate because it is supported by a constituent power in the form of democratic consent. Where in Mr. Shah's interpretation of the words 'Constituent Assembly' is there even an iota of acknowledgement of a constituent power?

Article 370(2) clearly mentions that the concurrence of the State Government needed to be taken only before the Constituent Assembly was convened. There is no mention that the State Legislative Assembly will have these powers after the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly. To read it so is absurd. The Constituent Assembly as the embodiment of constituent power is what creates and authorises, gives birth and grants the power to the legislative assembly. There is no equivalence between a Constituent Assembly and Legislative Assembly. If at all the words 'constituent assembly' in Article 370(3) have to be read down, it has to be done in such a way that its core meaning is saved. For example, it can be read down as meaning a 'special majority' of the State Legislative Assembly constituted by free and fair elections.

The fact of the matter is that given the democratic deficit, the BJP knows well that legal manipulations are not enough to scrap Article 370. What it needs is the use of force, which is what it has been surreptitiously preparing for over weeks and months. The government has given Kashmiris two options: either assimilate into the mainstream, where mainstream is a code for Hindi, Hindu, Hindustan, or be banished, and evicted by force. That is the tragic state of affairs we have come down to in the name of national unity and integrity.

Salman Rushdie parodies the word 'integrity' in *Shalimar The Clown* : "The key to understanding this position was the word 'integral' and its associated concepts… the Indian effort was to preserve the integrity of the nation. Integrity was a quality to be honoured and an attack on the integrity of the nation was an attack on its honour and was not to be tolerated… Kashmir was an integral part of India. An integer was a whole and India was an integer and fractions were illegal. Fractions caused fractures in the integer and were thus not integral… When truth and integrity conflicted it was integrity that was to be given precedence."

Mr. Shah conflates 'integrity' with 'integration'. Integration may involve forced homogenisation but integrity is moral disposition towards truth and honesty.

Rajgopal Saikumar is a doctoral candidate at New York University.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Onam is an annual Indian harvest festival celebrated predominantly in the State of Kerala. It is the official festival of the State and includes a spectrum of cultural events

Venkataraghavan Srinivasan

QUESTION 1
Each year on the second Saturday of August coinciding with Onam season a special event is held where unique snake boats compete for a precious trophy at the Punnamada Lake in Alleppey. What is the name of the trophy?

QUESTION 2
What is the traditional dance form performed during Onam?

QUESTION 3
During Onam, people create intricate floral designs at the courtyards of their homes using various colourful flowers. These designs can become quite elaborate and are a significant part of the festival's decorations. By what names are these called?

QUESTION 4
The Onam celebration commemorates the return of the mythical King Mahabali. Every year, the king visits his subjects to see if they are happy and the people feast and wear new clothes. What term is referred to this new Onam clothing?

QUESTION 5
The grand meal served during Onam on a banana leaf typically includes a variety of dishes, such as rice, sambar, avial, thoran, and payasam. The number of dishes can range from 20 to 30 or more, depending on tradition. By what name is the Onam feast known?

Visual question:
Identify this species of bird. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Apart from Neeraj Chopra, the other Indians who featured in the top six of the men's javelin event. **Ans: Kishore Jena and D.P. Manu finished fifth and sixth respectively**
2. Name the members of the Indian quartet that set an Asian record in the men's 4x400m relay. **Ans: Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal Variyathodi and Rajesh Ramsh**
3. This legend won her fourth straight World crown in this event. **Ans: Venezuela's Yulimar Rojas in triple jump**
4. The only world record set in this year's World Athletics Championships. **Ans: The U.S. in the 4x400m mixed relay with a timing of 3:08.80s.**
5. The first set by Katie Moon and Nina Kennedy. **Ans: The pole vaulters shared gold in the women's event**
6. Apart from India and Japan taking the honours in javelin, this other Asian athlete won a gold in this event. **Ans: Bahrain's Winfred Mutile in women's 3000m steeplechase**
Visual: Name this champion. **Ans: Kenya's Faith Kipyegon**
Early Birds: Savit Khanna| Kamuju Harish

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

Sir, Ms. P. A. Majumdar, Calcutta, wants to know the meaning of 'bachelor' in 'Bachelor of Arts'."

"The word 'bachelor' is believed to be from old French 'bacheler'. Originally a 'bacheler' was a young man, an aspirant to knighthood. He was an 'apprentice to arms or sciences'. A knight bachelor was one who had to follow another as he was not considered old enough to march under his own banner. In other words, he was not a master; he was only an apprentice. A Bachelor of Arts is one who has taken the lowest degree in a university and is not yet master of the Arts. 'Bachelor of Arts' came to be used with women also. You don't have a 'Spinster of Arts' degree! In course of time, 'bachelor' acquired the meaning of 'young unmarried man'. In the sixteenth century, 'bachelor' was used to denote 'a young unmarried woman' also. This meaning became obsolete in the nineteenth century, but is retained in modern expressions like 'bachelor girl'. A bachelor girl is one who is not married and lives independently. Do you know what a 'bachelor's fare' is?"

"No, Sir."

"Well, it consists of bread, cheese and kisses! He lives on this perhaps thinking of 'Bachelor's wife'?"

"What is it. Sir? How can a bachelor have a wife?"

"Well. 'Bachelor's wife' is the ideal wife the bachelor thinks of by day and dreams of by night! Every bachelor is deeply in love with his ideal wife."

"Sir, Ms. V. Sudhachandran wants to know the meaning of the idiom 'pip at the post'."

" 'To pip at the post' means 'to defeat at the last moment'.

He was pipped at the post.

He was pipped means (a) he was hit with a shot (b) he was defeated. 'Pip at the post' is 'to defeat a person by a narrow margin'. 'Pip' has several other meanings. 'He pipped out' means he died. 'Pip out' is used colloquially. 'To have (got) the pip' means 'to be depressed'. It is used colloquially.

I have got the pip.

'To give one the pip' means 'to irritate or annoy'.

She gave me the pip.

In American English, 'pip' also means 'something or someone wonderful'.

She is a pip.

The party was a pip."

"Sir, Mr. P. R. Ramesh Chandar wants to know the meaning of 'to lock horns'."

" 'To lock horns' means to enter into conflict, to quarrel or to contend rather vehemently. Animals lock horns when they fight and the expression is derived from this.

He returned furious after locking horns with his boss.

This idiom is used mainly in America."

"Sir, Miss Sarita Bhutani wants to know the meaning of 'go bananas'."

" 'Go bananas' means 'to go crazy'. It is slang. When a person gets excited over something and is completely overcome by emotion, you say he has gone bananas.

He has gone bananas over his new play.

Monkeys scream with delight at the sight of bananas. From this behaviour of monkeys, we get this expression."

Published in The Hindu on March 7, 1989

Word of the day

Opprobrium:
state of disgrace resulting from public abuse; a state of extreme dishonour

Synonyms: obloquy, infamy

Usage: *His name was a by-word of scorn and opprobrium throughout the city.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/oppobriumpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /əˈpɹəʊ.bɹɪ.əm/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Unserved by metro, vast Bengaluru stretches desperately need feeder buses

In the pipeline are at least 20 mini-buses to be operated as feeders from the metro stations. However, commuters say they will have to wait a long time to see the feeders turn up

Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

Thousands depend on BMTC buses that often get stuck at junctions left undeveloped by the much-hyped signal-free corridor.

The slow progress of Namma Metro network expansion has inevitably meant that Bengalureans will have to wait for long to see an improved density of lines.

Vast swathes of sprawling Bengaluru has a very specific mobility problem: Despite Namma Metro's grand plans to expand its network, these areas will still remain unserved by the trains even after the Phase III alignments are operationalised. This calls for a well thought-out plan to bridge the gaps through smartly planned bus routes and shuttles. But are the transport agencies geared up?

Linking the last-mile is often the Achilles heel of the city's mobility. In these unserved areas, this glaring connectivity gap extends to several miles. Struggling to maintain its existing fleet of about 6,300 buses, is the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) prepared to deploy enough shuttle buses with requisite staff to fill these gaps?

On Old Airport Road, flanked by several congested localities such as Marathahalli, Kodihalli, Domlur Layout, Konena Agrahara and more, the nearest Metro station is several kilometers away. Thousands depend on BMTC buses that often get stuck at junctions left undeveloped by the much-hyped signal-free corridor. The waiting time at the Wind Tunnel Junction, for instance, has gone up substantially since the corridor was green-signalled.

For years, a Metro alignment linking Hosakerehalli with Marathahalli along Old Airport Road was on the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) agenda. This went off the radar, as a controversial pod-taxi line was famously proposed on the route. Mobility experts dubbed this patently unworkable as a mass transit option. Eventually, that proposal died down too.

Clear roadmap, but slow progress

Last heard, the previous Basavaraja Bommai government mooted an underground line along this corridor, as part of an action plan to make the State a U.S. $1 Trillion economy. The big idea: To ensure access to a Station within 1-2 km of their office or residence by 2032, down from the existing average of 4-5 kms. A decision is now awaited from the new government.

Shuttle feeder buses are seen as the best option to connect the unserved areas. But even if they were around, most Phase I Metro Stations had no bus bays to let commuters seamlessly board and alight the shuttles. Baby steps are now being taken to ensure that passengers get a bus as soon as they step out of the Metro Station.

The roadmap is clear, and the BMTC top brass has even articulated it recently: Operate feeder buses till 11.30 pm, give commuters real-time data on bus location and schedule, put up digital display boards at all Metro Stations, synchronise Metro and bus timings, and make public announcements. Currently, these announcements are made inside the coaches only for feeder buses heading to Vasanthanagar from Cubbon Park Metro Station.

Localised bus networks

Faced with a funds crunch and staff shortage, BMTC has to rely on the Department of Urban Land Transport (DULT) to run feeder services under the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) system. In the pipeline are at least 20 minibuses to be operated as feeders from the Metro Stations. However, commuters say they will have to wait a long time to see the feeders turn up and become reliable transport modes.

The Bangalore Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) Act was passed to precisely address this problem, reminds independent mobility consultant, Sathya Arikutharam.

"Even in big cities such as Singapore and London, the gaps left by the Metro are actually filled by localised bus networks. One reason why the BMLTA was formed, was to ensure that BMRCL and BMTC have a coordinated plan so that public transport works as a single unit, including buses and the Metro. The idea was to fulfill up to 80% of the journeys in the city this way," he elaborates.

But rules have not been notified even seven months after the BMLTA was passed in the State Assembly. "Recently, they also transferred the DULT commissioner, who was supposed to be the BMLTA CEO. I think at the policy level, the government is itself disinterested or it is not in their priority list to ensure that the two agencies work as one public transport unit and not two competing ones."

To add to the confusion, he notes, BMRCL has the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry as its nodal and the BMTC is under the Transport Ministry. "That is why there is no inbuilt incentive to cooperate, and you see all these problems," he says.

'Metro needn't be everywhere'

The slow progress of Namma Metro network expansion has inevitably meant that Bengalureans will have to wait decades to see an improved density of lines. But as many experts point out, the Metro need not be everywhere. It can offer the trunk journey, but the first mile, the last mile, and the localised trips will have to be traversed by the bus, cabs or auto rickshaws, and cycles wherever possible.

The intervention of aggregators, while revolutionizing access to autos and cabs, has also made the last-mile connection unaffordably high. Result: Metro commuters increasingly depend on their private personal cars and two-wheelers, an unsustainable trend rarely seen in other world cities of Bengaluru's population and area size.

The city's Koramangala is a classic example of an area not covered by the Metro, points out urbanist and a member of the BBMP Restructuring Committee, V. Ravichander. "Koramangala is not likely to see a Metro connection even in the next 20 years at least. Clearly, you definitely need a feeder bus system which either connects to the main trunk lines of the BMTC arterial lines or to the Metro," he says.

Heat map of underserved areas

A multiplicity of these gaps and underserved areas, he says, will see a collapse of the entire mass transit system. "People from these areas will take out their personal vehicles. So, you have to first make a heat map of the underserved areas, with definitions such as 2 or 3 km to the nearest metro station. Feeder minibuses are the only way to do it."

Funding and land acquisition issues might have slowed down Metro's network expansion. But Ravichander feels the BMRCL spread itself too thin by working on multiple projects. "They could have put all their energy into seeing some lines running fully, instead of partially building the Whitefield line, for example. It is like Napolean, when you open too many fronts then you are likely to lose the war," says the urbanist.

No assessment of routes

There is widespread acknowledgment that BMTC feeder buses will do the job. But there is no assessment of the routes already deployed, says Ranjith Parvathapuram, Senior Manager, Sustainable Cities, at the World Resources Institute (WRI) India. "They are operating around 25 feeder routes, but there is no comprehensive assessment on whether these routes are successful or not."

The ticketing data and load factor have to be tracked and analysed. "Whether the load during the peak hours is really catering to the Metro or are regular commuters. We at WRI are also trying to support BMRCL and BMTC to identify the routes, along with DULT," Ranjith informs.

In underserved areas, he stresses the need for a planned approach. "Take the example of the Whitefield Metro. Residential areas around it are growing rapidly. Obviously, if someone from those areas needs to come to the city, the best option is the Metro, with its missing Baiyappanahalli - K.R. Puram link getting connected in September."

Ranjith says, "The BMTC and BMRCL have an opportunity now to start planning which are the feeder routes they can deviate and put in those areas so that they can pull more people towards the Metro. Some schedules are currently operating. But I don't think they are sufficient to cater to the big demand that will emerge once the missing link is opened."

Sanchaya brings back *Tempest* after more than two years

A scene from the play Tempest by Sanchaya.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sanchaya, a Kannada theatre troupe that turned 35 recently, is back with one of its most popular productions *Tempest,* on Thursday, August 31, at Ranga Shankara. The Kannada-language production which was made close to a decade ago, has showcased more than 30 shows across India and is coming back on stage after a two-year-long break.

This play, believed to be William Shakespeare's final work, showcases his remarkable inspiration drawn from nature. It vividly portrays nature's fury and serene calmness, skillfully connecting these aspects to human strife and relationships. While possessing the hallmark qualities of one of Shakespeare's romantic comedies, what sets this play apart is the profound exploration of each character's quest for self-discovery and identity within the world.

With popular theatre and cine actor Krishna Hebbale in the lead role, along with Vikram Thaliala, Nanda Kumar, Nandan Jonty, and others, this production brings Shakespeare's masterpiece to life. Directed by Joseph John and featuring a musical score by S.R. Ramakrishna and Utthana Bharighat, this 90-minute performance captivates audiences with its compelling characters.

Tickets for the show are available at the Ranga Shankara box-office and on *BookMyShow*.

City-based Foundation offers free surgeries for children with scoliosis

The medical condtion is a sideways curvature of the spine, most often diagnosed in adolescents

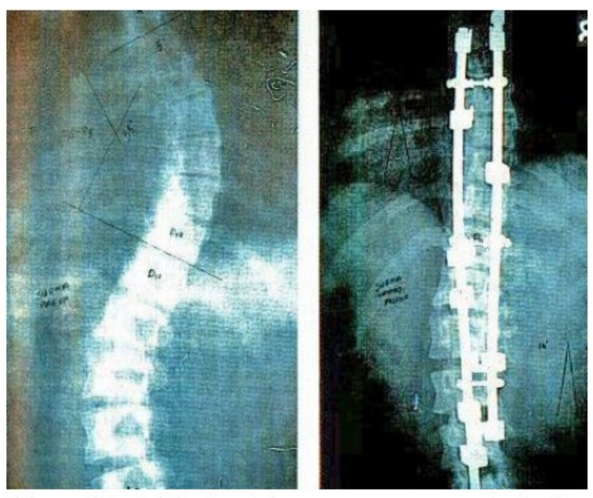
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Five children with spinal deformities - screened and shortlisted by the Scoliosis Foundation of India - will undergo free scoliosis surgeries in October this year. Scoliosis is a sideways curvature of the spine that most often is diagnosed in adolescents.

The Foundation - which was started in 2017 - has so far provided free surgeries to correct the deformity in over 60 children from low-income families from across the State. The surgeries were conducted at Manipal Hospital on Old Airport Road.

Misconceptions about scoliosis

Thomas Kishen, Consultant Spine and Scoliosis Surgeon at the hospital, who launched the Foundation, said misconceptions about scoliosis that are prevalent among low-income households are delaying diagnosis and treatment. "Financial constraints faced by the families are adding to the woes of the children suffering from this condition. For the last six years, we have been striving towards educating people about the condition and offering free treatment for the needy through our Foundation. We have operated upon over 10 children every year free of cost since 2017," he said.


If the condition is left untreated, some curves progress relentlessly leading to a disfiguring appearance.

Dr. Thomas Kishen.

Affordability

Pointing out that children with spinal deformities usually present late, he said: "One reason is the lack of awareness, leading to delayed recognition of the spinal deformity and lack of knowledge of the treatment options available."

"These are complex and expensive spine surgeries which are not readily available in most government-run hospitals due to which these children are forced to seek medical care at private hospitals. The Scoliosis Foundation aims to guide and assist those with spinal deformities to gain access to appropriate high quality surgical and non-surgical treatment," he said.

According to the doctor, if the condition is left untreated, some curves progress relentlessly leading to a disfiguring appearance, back pain, difficulty in breathing, and heart problems. Hence, early recognition, assessment and treatment are essential, he added.

> Financial constraints faced by the families are adding to the woes of the children suffering from this condition.
>
> **THOMAS KISHEN**
> Consultant Spine and Scoliosis Surgeon

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 30, 1973

Mangalore Students Lathi-charged

Mangalore, August 29: Twenty-five policemen were injured, including the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Mr. Y.S. Rao, in stone-throwing incidents near the Polytechnic, ITI and near the hospital here to-day. The Sub-Divisional Magistrate and the Assistant Commissioner Mr. Dharmendra Dev Mishra was also injured. Twelve of the police personnel who were injured were admitted to the Government hospital. Fourteen students were also admitted to the hospital. Four others were treated as outpatients.

The student of Saint Aloysius College and Industrial Training Centre here, alleging that police had entered the students' hostel and beaten up students during the leftist bandh.

Curios sales from Mysore Palace 'Not Objectionable'

Bangalore, August 29: The Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs, told pressmen here to-day that the State Government would not interfere with the export of some art pieces belonging to the Mysore palace which on verification, had not been found to be objectionable.

When his attention was drawn to reports of complaints against the export of some curios, the Chief Minister said that the Government had asked the palace authorities to hold up the disposal of those articles pending verification of the complaints. The Government had no legal authority to interfere in the deal since the articles in question could not be considered antiques.

Unveiling paradise behind an old fridge door

Barcelona's Paradiso, co-owned by Giacomo Giannotti and Margarita Sader, stands as the world's best bar, the first outside New York and London to achieve this distinction

Swathi Nair

Nestled discreetly behind a pastrami shop in Barcelona's El Born neighbourhood, Paradiso has claimed the title of the world's finest bar, according to the World's 50 Best Bars ranking. A groundbreaking achievement, this honour marks the first time an establishment beyond the traditional powerhouses of New York and London has secured the top position. At the helm of this triumph are husband and wife co-owners, Giacomo Giannotti and Margarita Sader.

The duo were recently in the city for a bar takeover at ZLB23, a Kyoto Speakeasy at The Leela Palace.

Their story began around eight years ago. "Having a bar like Paradiso was our dream," Giacomo reflects. With a cumulative experience of over 15 years in hospitality, the couple set out to transform their dream into reality.

For Giacomo, the name of the bar carries profound significance, drawing from his roots in Gelateria Paradiso, his family's cherished ice cream shop in Tuscany, Italy. "It was our family shop where I spent a lot of my time with my brothers and parents," he fondly recollects. It was within these walls that his aptitude for guest engagement, the art of harmonizing flavours, and the pursuit of excellence through top-tier raw ingredients were honed.

The recognition of being crowned the world's preeminent bar does not signal the culmination of the couple's efforts. "It's about having an extremely skilled team and providing the best service to our customers. And it's not just a one-time thing – it is a promise we make every day. When we win an award, we do celebrate, of course. But the very next day, we're right back at the bar, doing what we've always done," Margarita says.

Their philosophy is straightforward: "Work diligently and maintain a positive outlook." Giacomo and Margarita are firm believers that there is no secret sauce to their success, just unwavering commitment and a healthy dose of perseverance.

As Margarita puts it, "You can have an amazing cocktail, but if the place is dirty, the music is awful, the sofa is uncomfortable, and the waiter is not even looking at you, then it doesn't matter if you have the best cocktail in front of you. It's a complex experience. Even the smallest elements matter greatly."

Star quality Margarita Sader and Giacomo Giannotti with their winning team. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

> We want clients to sense all five faculties and evoke emotions.
>
> **MARGARITA SADER**
> Co-owner, Paradiso

When the couple initiated their venture eight years ago, the concept of a speakeasy bar was a rarity in Barcelona. "Being one of the first people to bring the concept of a speakeasy bar to Barcelona has also played a major role in Paradiso making its mark in the industry today, and has also been great for our marketing since we opened," Giacomo says.

Paradiso's allure is underscored by its speakeasy premise: patrons access the bar through a refrigerator door. "On the outside, what you see is a traditional bakery, pastrami shop. Once you enter through an old fridge door, there's an immediate 'wow' effect because what you then see is Paradiso," he says. This year, the theme of their menu is the evolution of humankind, inspired by pivotal inventions and moments in history, Margarita notes.

At ZLB23, they showcased signature cocktails from the evolution menu. A refreshing Tesla cocktail, a nod to electricity, and The Copper, inspired by the metal age, were on offer. "Our Evolution Negroni, a twist on Negroni Boulevardier, celebrates the wheel's invention. We garnish it with a caramel wheel," says Giacomo.

Menu changes are an annual ritual. In their early days, amidst Barcelona's budding cocktail culture, they adopted a measured approach to fathom client preferences. "Our challenge was to have our team find new ideas and ingredients for something novel. We want clients to sense all five faculties and evoke emotions," Margarita emphasises.

Their preceding Universe-themed menu harnessed natural phenomena as inspiration. Their Tornado cocktail stood out, visually mimicking the effects of a tornado upon service. "It's a prime example of a refreshingly delicious cocktail, with thoughtful presentation, concept, and narrative," Margarita states.

While presentation bears weight, Margarita underscores that flavour and narrative often supersede aesthetics. She concludes, "The entire story must make sense."

EATING OUT

Up above the world so high The interiors and dishes at Cumulus. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Dessert bliss amid clouds

Swathi Nair

Lunch at the Cumulus is a meal in a very happy place. The restaurant that opened recently is on the terrace of MAP (Museum of Art & Photography) on Kasturba Road. As I walk in, it looks like I have been transported to one of those fancy rooftop brunch places you see on *Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*, albeit here, your view of the sky is interrupted by UB city.

Smoor is the operator of the restaurant, and its name, Cumulus, draws inspiration from the skies above. Similar to how MAP's vast art collection is hosted in the digital cloud, Cumulus aims to provide a dining experience that connects culinary pleasures with a view of the clouds.

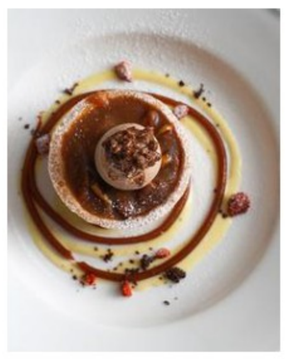
On a Monday afternoon, there is a lot of tranquility here, away from the fast-moving traffic below.

The menu was full of delicious-sounding things such as chilli garlic baked prawn, trio bell pepper bruschetta and California roll. Just like any other cafe, the menu has Asian, continental and Mediterranean food to cater to a wider audience.

However, there are not a whole bunch of edible reasons to be at Cumulus, other than the desserts. This is understandable because the kitchen does not have a traditional stove; they use induction for cooking. So, it is clear that the food might not be as exciting, but it is not due to any lack of effort from the staff.

The service is excellent, and Chef Anil Rana suggests the pan-seared cottage cheese marinated with pesto sauce. The pesto sauce adds herbal, nutty, and garlicky flavors that go well with the mild and creamy cheese, with a gentle saltiness.

Restaurant -Cumulus
Cuisine - Cafe
Cost - ₹1500 (for two)
Address - Cumulus, 5th Floor, Museum of Arts and Phtotography, 22, Kasturba Rd, Bengaluru, Karnataka



Once we learned that everything is cooked using induction, the menu of baked items made more sense. So, we opted for a California Roll - a skillfully made sushi roll with carrot, cucumber, avocado, and pickled ginger. The roll is served with traditional condiments: wasabi and soy sauce. The sushi was definitely the highlight of my Monday lunch.

The cocktail menu includes classic options such as a mojito, bloody Mary, and cosmopolitan, as well as other choices. Since it is a Smoor-owned restaurant, it is recommended to try their delicious hot chocolate. We also sampled the Mayan hot chocolate, a creamy and bitter drink made with unsweetened chocolate, chili peppers, and aromatic spices like allspice and ground cinnamon. It has a distinctive bitter flavor and a frothy, creamy texture – ideal for a cozy winter evening, perhaps.

Saving the best for last, the desserts on the menu, and the hot chocolate, compensate for any letdown from the appetisers. The pecan nut caramel tart features almond sable, hazelnut crunch, arriba milk chocolate cremeux, pecan nut caramel with pecan nut streusel, and honey nut crunch ice cream. Honestly, I still think about that caramel tart from time to time – the memories linger on.

In sync with his legacy

Vaishali KS

An experimentalist par excellence, a voyager into the strange seas of sound, an exploiter of the expressive power of music – Pt Kumar Gandharva was all this and more.

The Kumar Gandharva Pratishthan in association with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts and ground support from 'Saptak' had organised 'Kaljayi', a two-day music festival at Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru, a music series to celebrate the legendary vocalist's birth centenary recently. The event opened with a concert by Bhuvanesh Komkali, grandson of Pt Kumar Gandharva and son of Pt Mukul Shivputra.

Bhuvanesh began his concert with the 'sandhi parakash' raag Multani, ushering in the sombre beauty of the eventide.

He set the tone with energetic improvisation of the popular vilambit khayal bandish, 'Gokul gaav ki chora'. He seemed to be totally in sync with Kumar's 'decentred' approach, which is more about mood creation rather than the incremental progression discernible in the building of a melodic edifice.

Poise under pressure Bhuvanesh Komkali at a concert in honour of his grandsfather Pt Kumar Gandharva. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bhuvanesh's unique style of voice production with unmistakable creative variations in the *raag* and *bandish* enthralled the audience.

Bhuvanesh's remarkable 'raagvistar' Multani was matched by empathetic accompaniment on the samvadini by Pt Vyasmurthy Katti. In the brisk *drut teen taal bandish* 'Dil bekarar', Bhuvanesh executed an impressive blend of verbal enunciation and melodic exploration. Pt Ravindra Yawagal on the tabla enhanced the appeal of the cascading *taans* with his mesmerising flourishes.

After Multani , Bhuvanesh Komkali presented the Roopak *taal bandish* 'Mara rasiya' in *raag* Shyam Kalyan, providing fascinating glimpses of some uncommon, and relatively unexplored melodic passages. His rendition of the *drut teen khayal* 'Sawan ki saanj moko sukhad bhayi' showed how originality and verve lent an ethereal dimension to his music.

During a brief conversation after the concert, Bhuvanesh elaborated on the title 'Kaljayi'.

"The musical legacy of Kumarji transcends time. Musicians today are fascinated by his unique approach, which helped him discover colourful possibilities of the *raags*. We are still trying to comprehend the manner in which he bypassed the traditional unfolding of the *raag* to focus on its melodic centre. He is undoubtedly a 'Kaljayi', one who has vanquished the relentlessness of time that erases everything."

When asked about the pressures he dealt with as the inheritor of an enviable legacy, Bhuvanesh says, "It is exhilarating and unnerving at the same time. I am aware of the expectations and the need to constantly re-invent my music. It can be rigorous and inexorable. I have my limitations and I try my best. Nevertheless, to be the torchbearer of a formidable legacy can be a tremendous responsibility."

Talking about the position of this *guru-sishya* parampara art form in a digitally-driven world, he adds, "There are some truly earnest students, who sincerely train. I also teach online. However, personal interaction with the guru cannot be supplanted by anything else."

CITYBEATS

Bet on the blues

AUGUST 31, 8PM
This one is for all those who like country and retro music.
The band, Blue Mountain High will be performing in the city. They are known for their country and retro music.
You can dance and sing along, besides treat yourselves to drinks and food.
Tickets are available on on BookMyShow.
At Hard Rock Cafe, MG Road

It's the time to Bhangra!

SEPTEMBER 3
This dance class will teach you Bhangra.
Called Bhagra with Charan, the class is said to not just provide entertainment but also help you burn calories.
Register on Townscript or call 9886294444.
Class will be held from 12 noon to 2pm.
This will be followed by a 'Coffee painting' session (involves working with only one colour). Register on Townscript.
At Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar

Time, love and science

SEPTEMBER 3
Watch the play *Love in the Cholera of Time.*
This 90 minute sci-fi romantic drama is based on Einsteinian laws of time and Shakespearean whimsies of love.
The play, directed by Prashanth Kumar Nair, will be staged by Tahatto, a Bengaluru theatre group.
Tickets available on BookMyShow.
At Bangalore International Centre, at 3.30pm and 7pm.

Karnataka told to release 5,000 cusecs for T.N.

The Cauvery Water Management Authority's direction will be in force for 15 days; referring to deficit in rainfall and inflows into four Karnataka reservoirs in the basin, CWMA Chairman said the decision was based on a comparison of the current year's data with that of the long-term average

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) on Tuesday directed Karnataka to ensure that 5,000 cubic feet per second (cusecs) of water be realised at Biligundulu on the inter-State boundary for the next 15 days – up to September 12.

This was decided at a meeting of the Authority, which went on for two hours.

Barring Tamil Nadu, which was represented by Sandeep Saxena, Additional Chief Secretary of the Water Resources Department, at the meeting, other States participated in the meeting online.

The quantum was recommended by the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC), which held its deliberations on Monday. Tamil Nadu wanted 24,000 cusecs to be supplied whereas Karnataka's stand was 3,000 cusecs.

Bone of contention: While Tamil Nadu wanted 24,000 cusecs to be supplied, Karnataka agreed to give 3,000 cusecs. FILE PHOTO

Referring to deficit in rainfall and inflows into four Karnataka reservoirs in the basin, Saumitra Kumar Haldar, chairman of the CWMA, told *The Hindu* that the decision was based on a comparison of the current year's data with that of the long term average, which was arrived at after taking into account the 30-year-long data. "The shortfall in inflow into the Karnataka reservoirs this time is 51%," Mr. Haldar said, adding that the decision was taken based on discussions, actual shortfall, inflows and outflows of all the reservoirs.

An official of the Tamil Nadu government expressed disappointment and said this would not meet even the current discharge of about 8,000 cusecs, a quantum which was hardly sufficient for farmers in the Cauvery delta.

Will consult legal experts, says DKS

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said here on Tuesday that he and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will discuss with legal experts the latest directives by the Cauvery Water Management Authority to release water at the rate of 5,000 cusecs per day for the next 15 days to Tamil Nadu.

Meanwhile, farmers' groups in Mandya continued to demand that Karnataka should not release water, as their crops were drying up.

Speaking to media persons Mr.Shivakumar was cautious in his reply to the queries and said that he and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will hold discussions with the legal team on Tuesday night itself to chalk the next course of action.

"Senior officials and lawyers have briefed me of the CWMA order and also cautioned that any decision should not jeopardize the State interest as the case was also before the Supreme Court and slated for hearing on Friday," he added.

'Don't want to be chastised'

In reply to a question Mr. Shivakumar said they don't want to be chastised by the Supreme Court. "Our legal team and officials have argued well and aggressively as a result of which Tamil Nadu's demand for releasing 24,000 cusecs has whittled down to 5,000 cusecs," said Mr. Shivakumar.

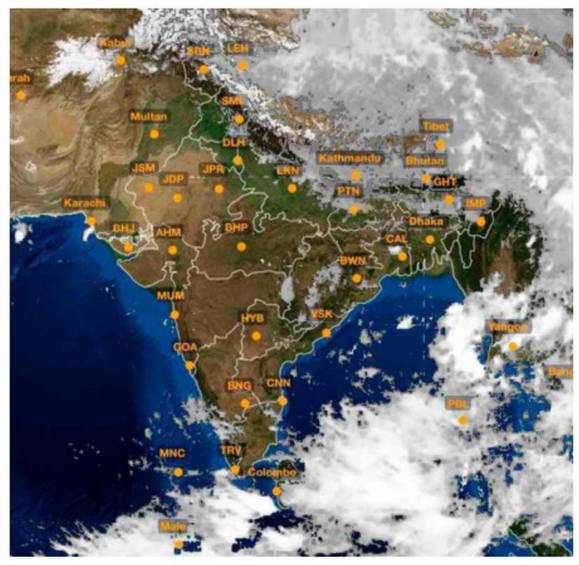
He said there was nearly 24 thousand million cubic ft. (tmcft) of water in the KRS of which only about 16 tmcft was live, Kabini had 13 tmcft of gross storage and the live storage position was only 3 tmcft, Harangi had 7.8 tmcft of live storage and 7 tmcft was live and Hemavathi had 25 tmcft of water of which 21 tmcft was live.

When questioned whether water would be released Mr. Shivakumar obliquely said, "The Centre also held the key."

Responding to the allegations of BJP leader C.T. Ravi in Mysuru that the Congress was sacrificing the State interest to placate the allies of INDIA, Mr. Shivakumar said he did not want to play politics on the issue of water like the BJP. "They know the ground reality and yet are issuing statements to put the Congress in Karnataka in discomfiture."

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, central Maharashtra, Marathwada and Konkan & Goa

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.2	33.7	25.8	Kozhikode	—	34.5	26.7
Ahmedabad	—	35.5	25.4	Kurnool	2	35.5	24.7
Aizawl	—	24.0	21.0	Lucknow	—	34.3	25.3
Allahabad	—	34.0	26.0	Madurai	3	37.8	25.0
Bengaluru	—	30.6	22.6	Mangaluru	—	30.6	25.5
Bhopal	—	—	22.0	Mumbai	7	31.6	25.6
Bhubaneswar	—	34.8	25.2	Mysuru	—	32.5	23.0
Chandigarh	7	34.6	23.5	New Delhi	—	36.5	26.6
Chennai	54	35.1	22.8	Patna	—	34.4	27.2
Coimbatore	—	35.0	23.6	Port Blair	55	30.0	23.7
Dehradun	—	33.4	22.0	Puducherry	—	34.3	27.3
Gangtok	14	21.2	17.2	Pune	1.1	30.3	22.5
Goa	22	31.1	23.0	Raipur	—	33.4	25.3
Guwahati	—	34.1	24.4	Ranchi	—	31.2	23.4
Hubballi	—	28.0	22.0	Shillong	—	25.0	15.7
Hyderabad	2	32.3	23.4	Shimla	5	25.6	14.0
Imphal	—	31.5	21.5	Srinagar	—	30.5	14.6
Jaipur	—	34.8	25.5	Thiruvananthapuram	3	32.9	24.7
Kochi	0.2	30.8	25.4	Tiruchi	—	38.9	25.4
Kohima	—	25.0	16.0	Vijayawada	—	35.0	26.4
Kolkata	—	35.2	28.2	Visakhapatnam	—	33.2	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	5	4	91	81	89	
Bengaluru	8	—	34	234	161	
Chennai	6	98	125	—	38	
Delhi	8	37	22	151	386	
Hyderabad	10	10	38	139	120	
Kolkata	14	39	31	164	216	
Lucknow	7	8	78	96	108	
Mumbai	8	31	52	112	176	
Pune	119	191	111	44	39	
Visakhapatnam	—	19	25	77	147	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Saharsa, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 281 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Girl extorts ₹1 lakh from techie in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The South cybercrime police are on the lookout for a girl who lured a 30-year-old engineer by offering escort service and later extorted ₹1.1 lakh from him at a hotel in BTM Layout after claiming to be a police officer on Sunday.

The victim, who works in a private firm and is a resident of Padmanabhanagar, was browsing an escort service website and spoke to a girl who identified herself as Shivani. The accused offered the service for ₹6,000 and asked him to book a hotel at BTM Layout and send her the location.

The victim booked the room, checked into it, and sent her the details. A few minutes later, the accused came to the room and demanded ₹10,000 in advance and also ₹1,000 for the taxi fare.

As soon as the amount was transferred, the accused told the victim that she was a police officer and that she was going to book him for prostitution. She made a call to her associate who in turn called the victim and demanded ₹1 lakh for not arresting him. Scared of the consequences, the victim transferred the amount and the girl left.

After realising that he had been cheated, the victim went to Madiwala police station. As the case was related to cybercrime, he was advised to approach the cybercrime police of the South division.

The cybercrime police registered a case on Monday under the IT Act and also under cheating and extortion charges. The police are now trying to track down the accused through the transaction details.

Naidu supports caste census

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Joining the chorus for caste census, Telugu Desam Party president and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday said for an effective poverty alleviation strategy it is essential to have statistics that reflect the correct economic situation of all communities.

"There are poor people who haven't benefitted from government policies in each section whether SCs, STs other backward classes and even the forward caste groups. We need a comprehensive caste census and we must have a strategy based on the report on how to target these groups in particular," Mr. Naidu said, in Delhi.

The demand for caste census is likely to take centrestage in the Opposition's campaign for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

THE HINDU GROUP
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The search for the Master Chef of Karnataka
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*Map not to scale.
Karnataka's most delicious contest is coming to your town. Cook a traditional Kannada dish, or give it a special twist and bring it to the venue.
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To participate:
Scan the QR code or register at bit.ly/OSOT2023 (or) WhatsApp / Call / SMS your Name <space> City <space> Name of dish to:
96064 74973 / 96064 74974
Get your dishes judged by Celebrity Chef duo
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T&C apply.
Mandatory to present one dish using Gold Winner cooking oil and bring the used wrapper/container to the contest venue.
Click a picture of your Butterfly appliance and show at the venue. Get additional points!
Regional winners from each city will get products from Butterfly
Bring wrapper/ containers of RKG Ghee, AASHIRVAAD Atta, Parry's Sugar & Bambino to the venue and get extra points.
Udupi
September 2, 2023 | 10:30 am onwards
Hotel Manipal Inn
N.H 66, Near Karavali Bypass, Udupi - 576 103.
Mangaluru
September 3, 2023 | 10:30 am onwards
The Hotel Ocean Pearl
The Pacific 2 - Banquet Hall, Navabharat Circle, Kodialbail, Mangaluru - 575 003.
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A Nuh model

A no-nonsense approach by the authorities prevented another flare up

The call by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and its affiliates to undertake a procession on August 28 in the communally volatile Nuh district in Haryana had the authorities on their toes. A similar procession on July 31 had led to clashes that claimed six lives. The administration rightly denied permission for the gathering citing the law-and-order situation and the upcoming G-20 summit in the national capital. After a face-off between the organisers and the administration, a few representatives of the Hindu outfits were allowed amid police escort to offer prayers at three local temples to mark the conclusion of a month that many faithful consider sacred. The security arrangements this time were unprecedented with a multi-layered security cordon on all roads leading to Nuh from across Haryana. Internet services and bulk SMSes in Nuh were suspended and prohibitory orders imposed in advance. All schools, colleges and banks were directed to remain shut on August 28. The police and paramilitary personnel were deployed in large numbers. The Haryana police chief held a meeting with senior police officers of neighbouring States, social media platforms were watched closely to identify possible troublemakers, and their entry to Nuh prevented. As many as 41 people were detained across Haryana.

Similar measures and earnestness on the part of administration could have prevented the situation on July 31, especially with inputs from the State CID unit on possible trouble during the religious procession. All stakeholders must learn their lessons after the tense day, which thankfully passed without a flare up. Hindus and Muslims must put the recent past behind them to restore mutual trust and harmony. And it is not just Nuh. The stakes are equally high for its rather prosperous neighbour Gurugram, an IT and automotive hub and financial capital of Haryana that abuts Delhi. The police and the administration must deal with any unscrupulous attempts to disrupt the peace of the region again with an iron hand and send across a clear signal to fringe elements that no one is above the law. The manner in which the Bharatiya Janata Party government in Haryana has handled the situation proves that communal conflicts can indeed be controlled when the political executive shows determination. Chief Minister M.L. Khattar himself made it clear through public statements and administrative action that the law will prevail. The inverse is also true – that the police and the administration are often complicit in communal violence.

All for small

India's push for small businesses at the G-20 trade summit must be pursued

Trade and investment Ministers of the G-20 nations, representing 80% of the world economy's output, three-quarters of trade flows and three-fifths of the population, concluded their deliberations under India's presidency of the bloc last week. A comprehensive communiqué was scuttled as China and Russia blocked a reference to geopolitical issues arising from the conflict in Ukraine, as has been the case since last year's G-20 Bali summit. Yet, amid flailing prospects for global trade and investment in the near-term, the G-20 nations did agree to take joint actions to reaffirm the world's faith in cross-border commerce and investment flows as a route to prosperity and growth for all. The government counted five concrete and action-oriented deliverables from the meet, including a dialogue on global standards to bridge regulatory divergences across countries and a compendium on best practices for mutual recognition of qualifications for professional services such as medicine, law and nursing. Asserting that the trade track outcomes were the most significant so far in the G-20 parleys, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal highlighted the other three deliverables as new elements that hold importance for India. A generic framework to map global value chains, essentially to identify the weakest links and mitigate any shocks like those seen during the pandemic, is a good idea that may prove tricky to execute. Digitalisation of trade documents to ease flow of goods and services is welcome, but the principles identified in the pact pertain to paperwork on transactions such as transport, insurance, and storage, "not necessarily" to government filings for cross-border trade.

What has been coined as the 'Jaipur Call for Action to enhance Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises' (MSMEs') access to information' may yield quicker and more tangible results. The International Trade Centre, WTO and UNCTAD, which operate the Global Trade Helpdesk, have been urged to work with G-20 members to upgrade their data portal for businesses and bridge the "information asymmetry" that often hinders small players. This resonates with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plea that G-20 Ministers strive to help MSMEs which account for 60%-70% of employment and 50% of the global GDP, integrate with global value chains as empowering them translates to societal empowerment. India, on its part, must also consider steps to bolster the capacity of its small enterprises. For one, its nudge for greenfield investments through productivity-linked incentives across sectors, can be tweaked to create a separate window for fresh outlays by MSMEs that cannot qualify for incentives based on larger investments. Moreover, bureaucratic red tape may have turned into a 'red carpet' for some large investors, but for smaller firms, getting a project off the ground is not easy yet.

The Election Commission — autonomy in the crosshairs

Manjari Katju

teaches at the Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad

Of late, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has been a focal point of differences between the government and the judiciary. This time, the clash of opinions is over its appointment.

The Supreme Court of India, in a judgment on March 2, directed that the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the Election Commissioners (EC) will be appointed by the President of India based on the advice of a committee made up of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha or the leader of the single largest Opposition party and the Chief Justice of India (CJI). This judgment of the Constitution Bench was a major step towards broadbasing the ECI and enhancing its constitutional status. Article 324 of the Constitution contains a provision for such a law to be enacted by Parliament.

The significance of this judgment also lies in the fact that this was a unanimous judgment of a five-judge Bench. So far, the top officers of the ECI have been appointed by the President of India on the advice of the central government. However, the government of the day, in an unambiguous move, introduced a Bill in the Rajya Sabha on August 10 which if passed will overturn this verdict.

The Bill seeks to replace the Chief Justice of India from the high-powered selection committee, meaning the committee will be made up of the Prime Minister (Chairperson), Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha (Member) and a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister (Member).

The government, through this Bill, has taken the Supreme Court head on, making it clear that it wants greater weightage in the appointments of the top election officials – and thus a greater hold over the institution. Experience and research show that incumbent governments, especially those with authoritarian streaks, do not usually do away with democratic institutions but, instead, relentlessly work towards making them pliant. The institutional structures remain but are drained of their substance. And, in this case, one is dealing with a matter of electoral winnability and a consolidation of state power.

An issue that has seen much debate

The procedure of appointments of the CEC and the ECs has seen much debate in policy and political circles ever since the Constituent Assembly debates and much has been written about it.

> As the focal point of differences between the government and the judiciary over its appointment procedure, the Election Commission of India is in danger of being weakened

A suggestion during the Constituent Assembly Debates was that the appointment of the CEC should be subject to confirmation by two-thirds majority in a joint session of both Houses of Parliament (Constituent Assembly debates, June 15, 1949). However, Parliament was entrusted with the charge of making appropriate laws on the matter.

The V.M. Tarkunde Committee appointed by Jayaprakash Narayan in 1975, the Dinesh Goswami Committee on electoral reforms set up by the then Prime Minister, V.P. Singh, in the 1990s, and the second Administrative Reforms Commission in its fourth report in 2009 among others made recommendations that the appointments of members of the ECI should be more broad based (through a collegium) than leaving this solely to the government on whose advice the President made these appointments.

In 2006, a suggestion was made by a former CEC, B.B. Tandon, to the former President of India, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (when both were in office) that a seven- member committee headed by the Prime Minister should choose the CEC and the other ECs. The committee should include the Lok Sabha Speaker, the Leaders of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, the Law Minister, the Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha and a judge of the Supreme Court nominated by the CJI. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had supported such a suggestion and argued for a representative collegium, which included the CJI to appoint the apex electoral officials. BJP General Secretary Arun Jaitley in a press release on the CPI(M)'s suggested electoral reforms in 2006 had said, 'Any monitoring of Election Commission by Government or their nominee will be destructive of the independence of Election Commission'.

In 2012, senior leader of the BJP and former Deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani reiterated the argument that such a collegium should be formed with the Prime Minister as its chairman, with the CJI, the Minister of Law and Justice and the Leaders of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha as its members. He argued that the prevalent system, whereby members to the ECI are appointed by the President, solely on the advice of the Prime Minister, does not inspire confidence among the people.

Interestingly, all these high-level committees, experienced officers and even the BJP leadership saw the importance of this and recommended that the CJI or a judge appointed by him/her should be a part of this committee; never was a suggestion made that a Union Cabinet Minister should be bestowed with this membership (and that too by replacing the CJI). In asking for reform in the appointment, the idea was to raise the ECI a few notches higher on the free and fair bar and pave the way for expunging biases and attachments to the ruling party. The effort was to curb it from becoming a 'committed', partisan and an incumbent-friendly entity. Through the current Bill, the government, under the BJP, is attempting to push the ECI towards further governmental control strengthening the perception about a democratic weakening.

Suggestions for reforms in the appointment procedure of the ECI came from Opposition parties, wherein the BJP was one of the most vocal parties, mainly during the Congress regime. It was felt, and rightfully so, that ruling parties have a structural advantage over institutions, making them susceptible to manipulation and biases. It was felt that having a more representative selection committee would make elections fairer by reducing the hold of the incumbent party/parties on the ECI. However, during the previous National Democratic Alliance regimes, the BJP leadership did not move on its own (clearly articulated) suggestions. Through the new Bill, it has reversed its own position which it had been voluble about while in the opposition.

Held in high regard

The ECI has been held to be a reliable, responsible and trustworthy institution by the people of India. Handling elections that involve about 900 million voters (2019 election data) through a machinery of 11 million personnel in a setting of economic hardship and inequalities is a remarkable feat. However, going soft on the ruling party or its ideology, as the perception is, whether this has to do with election schedules, electoral speeches, alleged hateful propaganda, electoral rolls or other kinds of malpractices, is eroding not only its own autonomy but also people's trust. Nevertheless, the point remains that the present regime still sees the ECI as an institution with autonomy. And this autonomy does not gel with its goals. It would instead like a firmer grip on the ECI through statutory means.

INDIA and the hurdle of convincing the voter

Omkar Poojari

is a political researcher and columnist

The formation of INDIA (the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance), the 26-member Opposition alliance, has again highlighted an oft-cited adage: elections and alliances are not only about arithmetic but chemistry too. Indeed, multiple elections in the past have shown that arithmetic alone is no guarantee of success. On paper, the INDIA front appears to have arithmetic on its side, but its chemistry is questionable. Without getting its chemistry right, INDIA would find it difficult to take on the might of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) formidable election machinery that derives its strength from Narendra Modi's charisma and chemistry.

Decoding the chemistry

While the arithmetic versus chemistry debate has been the subject of much punditry, it is imperative to understand what chemistry implies and entails when it comes to alliance building and elections. In the case of alliances such as INDIA that are composed of diverse parties, there are two aspects of the chemistry of such alliances: chemistry between the alliance partners as well as the alliance's appeal and perception among the voters. To get its chemistry right, INDIA would have to work on both these aspects.

INDIA has many parties which are engaged in direct political contests or have a history of hostilities. Leaders of these parties merely forging an alliance will not translate to electoral success as long as it is accepted by cadres or core voters of the party. The chemistry between the alliance partners depends on the level of animosity between the supporters and voters of these parties which is a product of their past rivalries. Higher animosity between two parties would mean poor chemistry between the parties, resulting in a lower vote transfer as supporters of these parties would be reluctant to vote for a former foe turned ally. For instance, one of the primary reasons for the failure (and lower vote transfer) of the Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party alliance was the poor chemistry – a direct consequence of the higher level of animosity between the voters of these parties with a fraught history.

> On paper, the INDIA front appears to have arithmetic on its side, but its chemistry remains questionable

The second aspect is the chemistry with voters which is determined by the alliance's pitch to the voters and its perception among them. Over the years, the Narendra Modi-led BJP has deepened its chemistry with voters through Mr. Modi's personal charisma and a slew of welfare measures among other things. To ensure good chemistry with the voters, INDIA would have to successfully counter the BJP's accusations of it being a ragtag coalition of overly ambitious individuals and parties with the single-point agenda of unseating Mr. Modi.

What INDIA must do

A joint, well-coordinated and sustained campaign against the ruling regime and its failures where different parties and leaders of INDIA speak in unison would help the alliance in channelising the grievance of their voters as well as the median voter to a specific action – of voting for the combined Opposition. It would improve the chemistry between different parties in the alliance by overcoming the reluctance of voters leaning towards one of the Opposition parties from voting for an ideologically distant alliance party candidate.

Research shows that such campaigns can boost cross-party strategic voting and vote transfer by 10 percentage points. INDIA's strategy during the monsoon session of Parliament and the no-confidence motion had some evidence of such a campaign.

Given INDIA's composition, i.e., former foes and parties with contrasting ideologies, it is important to ensure that no one party's or group's ideological or policy agendas are seen to be dominating over another's. This calls for reasonable inter-party compromises which need to be highlighted to mute ideological differences, deepen chemistry between allies and facilitate vote transfer between parties with contrasting ideologies. The use of the word "inclusive" instead of "secular" could be seen as a step in that direction. It ensures that core voters of a party such as the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) are not alienated.

In 2019, the BJP had constantly warned voters against the possibility of a *'khichdi'* coalition of Opposition parties providing a government that was weak, confused and visionless. INDIA's challenge is to avoid a redux of 2019 and put to rest similar anxieties of voters. It cannot afford to be seen as a hodgepodge coalition driven by sheer anti-Modism with no concrete alternative vision to offer to the electorate. Previous results such as Indira Gandhi's reelection in 1971 and Mr. Modi's own reelection in 2019 have shown the limitations of negative campaigning. While INDIA has repeatedly emphasised that it is much more than an anti-Modi alliance and made "saving democracy" one of its central pitches, the average Indian voter does not vote on such abstract issues and is more concerned by more tangible bread-and-butter issues. To counter criticisms of being merely an anti-Modi alliance, dispel doubts regarding its vision and governance capabilities and to appeal to the average Indian voter by going beyond the abstract questions related to democracy and constitutionalism, INDIA needs to use the Karnataka template of guarantees at the national level.

INDIA has 11 incumbent Chief Ministers including Chief Ministers who have been elected multiple times. Taking a cue from the Karnataka guarantees, INDIA should come up with 11 guarantees derived from successful and popular schemes or initiatives from these 11 States. These guarantees that could target different sections of the electorate such as women, the youth and rural-urban poor would have an air of credibility around them as they would be based on schemes that have been successfully implemented in States. A campaign revolving around these 11 guarantees would help INDIA get its chemistry right with the voters by convincing them of its vision and governance prowess and showing them that it has more to offer than sheer anti-Modism.

In a way, INDIA could do with these 11 promises what Mr. Modi did with his promises based on the Gujarat model in 2014. The significant difference being that instead of one, single model for the entire nation, INDIA would have multiple models to show for – reiterating and highlighting the spirit of federalism: one size does not suit all.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cartographic aggression

China giving new names to places in the South China Sea and Arunachal Pradesh, or cartographic aggression, is the new art form in its diplomacy (Inside pages, August 29). Earlier, China produced ancient maps to lay claim to large territories. The present map also means that India must be ready for multi-front defence preparedness. India should not misread this cartographic aggression and must strongly resist such claims over its lands.

H.N. Ramakrishna,
Bengaluru

Though China is struggling to stabilise its economy, Beijing's territorial ambitions still seem to be sky high. China never keeps its word too. New Delhi has to be very careful. Disengagement of troops and de-escalation of tensions at the China border should be the prerequisites for any effective dialogue.

S.K. Vijayan,
Avalookunnu, Alappuzha, Kerala

Moon mission

August 23, 2023 should be cherished by every Indian as a great day as far as India's space programme is concerned. The perseverance and hard work put in by our scientists have stunned the world.

P.S. Rajagopalan,
Chennai

The huge success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission also imparts several life lessons, one of them being the importance of analysing our mistakes. Most importantly, it is about the need to work with unwavering focus, dedication and to always give any task or assignment one's best shot (Inside pages, "Moon mission gained from crash analysis: LPSC chief", August 29).

Janani Parvathy J.,
Bengaluru

Point of equity

'Data Point' ('Opinion' page, August 29, 2023) only underlines the need for India to usher in an era of sustainable and equitable development for all sections of society. The government needs to realise that overall production alone cannot improve the lives of the people when means and the profits from that production continue to remain in the hands of a small chunk of favourites. The focus should be on increasing formal sector employment and supporting small enterprises. Per capita income must rise.

Prakhar R. Jaiswal,
Meerut, Uttar Pradesh

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Gig Workers Bill: reading between the lines

Sunny Jose
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All views expressed are personal

In a first of its kind, the Rajasthan government introduced the Rajasthan Platform-Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023, with the aim of ensuring social security for gig workers. Despite its good intent and noteworthy features, the Bill appears wanting in important aspects. We identify four major issues that could possibly constrict the remit and reach of the Bill.

Definitions

The first issue arises from the definitions of a gig worker and aggregator in the Bill. Drawing largely on the Code on Social Security, 2020, the Bill defines a gig worker as a 'person who performs work or participates in a work arrangement and earns from such activities outside of traditional employer-employee relationships and who works on a contract that results in a given rate of payment'. It defines an aggregator as a 'digital intermediary... and includes any entity that coordinates with one or more aggregators for providing the services'. These definitions are far from clear and binding in treating the aggregator as employers. This lacking has a crucial bearing, as gig workers would then be seen as contractors or self-employed and not as employees by the aggregator.

Whether a gig worker and aggregator can be considered an employee and employer, respectively, has been a thorny issue globally. In fact, whether a gig worker can be considered an employee and not an independent contractor is at the core of the ABC Test. Currently integrated into California's labour code, the test was developed as a response to a case involving delivery drivers for a same-day delivery company called Dynamex. It states that the delivery people employed by the company shall be considered as employees rather than independent contractors unless the company demonstrates that the person is free from control by the company in terms of performance of work, in deciding working hours, etc. In case it fails to do so, all the benefits meted out to a full employee of the company should be extended to the delivery workers as well. Similarly, in 2021, the U.K. Supreme Court ruled that Uber drivers must be treated as workers, and not as self-employed. This definition has been integrated under Section 230(3)(b) of the U.K. Employment Rights Act, 1996. On the contrary, the Rajasthan Bill adopts equivocal definitions amenable for conflicting interpretations, which are not only out of sync with the global best practices, but also give rise to the second but crucial issue.

Provisions

By not defining the gig workers as employees, the Bill is limited in its ability to integrate existing labour laws into its ambit. Hence, the aggregators will continue to be insulated from complying with the mandates of the labour laws, and remain evasive from the responsibility of providing the gig workers with workplace entitlements. In 2022, leading platforms in India scored zero in the Fairwork India ratings. If a gig worker is not an employee, to what extent can the aggregator be held liable for medical expenses arising from accidents at work while carrying out the work?

Agreeably, a few platforms in India do have a provision on this. But such an approach runs the risk of converting crucial entitlements like occupational safety into benevolence on the part of the aggregator. In this regard, Australia and New Zealand have brought about key changes in their laws where the vocabulary no longer surrounds 'employer' or 'employee', but rather 'a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU)' and a 'worker in their workplace'. The onus is on the PCBU to ensure the health and safety of the worker while at the workplace or anywhere else while working.

Third, the Bill aims to create a database of gig workers wherein the details of all the workers onboarded or registered with a platform would be transferred to the proposed gig workers' welfare board. Such a database maintained by the board does not withstand 'the duration or time of engagement with app-based platforms'. In other words, whether the workers continue to be with the platform or not, the registration is valid for 'perpetuity'. This progressive element might become an unintended impediment. A worker often works for two or more aggregators on a given day. Would a mandatory system of registration enable the aggregators to get to know about the worker's details of employment with multiple aggregators and come out with mechanisms that impair the opportunity choices before the gig worker? The Bill has no preventive mechanism in this regard.

Fourth, the Bill at its core aims to guarantee social security to platform-based gig workers by constituting a representative welfare board and creating a welfare fund. It brings in eight aggregators or primary employers-based services under its remit. Yet, it neither defines categorically what constitutes social security nor specifies welfare measure that can broadly be construed as social security. Instead, it leaves this crucial aspect to the discretion of the welfare board, to 'formulate and notify schemes for social security of registered platform-based gig workers and take such measures as it may deem fit for administering such schemes'. Though the board will have five gig worker representatives nominated by the State government, how much say they will have in the presence of vastly powerful representatives from the platforms, bureaucracy, and government is a moot question.

Thus, due to these shortcomings, whether the Bill can deliver what it promises appears doubtful.

Four major issues that could possibly constrict the remit and reach of the Bill

The 'commission' millstone

The uncleared bills of civic contractors are haunting the Congress government

STATE OF PLAY

K.V. Aditya Bhardwaj

Ahead of the Assembly elections, the Karnataka Congress made allegations that kickbacks for bagging civic contracts under the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) regime had touched 40%. This became a major poll plank. The Congress launched a 'PayCM' campaign and won the election.

Three months into the new government's tenure, the Opposition BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) are hurling "commission" allegations against some Congress leaders. They have particularly trained their guns on Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds charge of Bengaluru Development, alleging that he has been demanding a "10-15% cut" to clear pending bills in the city's civic body. These allegations have gained currency since Mr. Shivakumar spent time in jail not too long ago over money laundering charges.

Mr. Shivakumar has denied the charge. He has argued that he is being targeted for instituting an inquiry into all the works undertaken by the previous regime in Bengaluru. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and he have said that only bills of works cleared by the internal probe will be paid. Meanwhile, the State government has instituted a probe by a retired High Court judge into allegations of the "40% commission" under the BJP regime.

While the Opposition has been hurling corruption charges at the government, contractors themselves seem to be more keen on getting bills cleared. "Presently, our grouse is not corruption, but non-clearance of pending bills," D. Kempanna, President, Karnataka State Contractors' Association, who had written to the Prime Minister complaining about "40% commission" under the previous regime, told The Hindu. While some contractors even sought the Governor's intervention to get pending bills in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike to the tune of over ₹6,000 crore cleared, no association has till date alleged demands for "kickback". One contractor who made the allegation later withdrew it. But with bills not being cleared and contractors miffed, several ongoing works have come to a standstill in Bengaluru.

The impasse is indicative of a larger malaise in the system. In the contractor's opposition to the internal probe into the quality of works for which bills have been pending is a tacit acceptance of low-quality works. They allege that in the political fight between the Congress and the BJP over corruption, they are being targeted. They contend that quality was bound to suffer when they had to pay huge kickbacks and they cannot now be "punished" for it.

However, Congress sources have said that they are serious about "exposing corruption" under the BJP regime before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, and investigating the quality of works undertaken during the previous tenure is the only way of doing it.

The State is estimated to have pending bills of over ₹25,000 crore. Given that some ₹35,000 crore has been allocated in the Budget for five 'guarantee' welfare schemes of the government, there seems to be a fund crunch for other works. Contractors allege that the probe is only a tactic to delay payments.

Mr. Shivakumar has repeatedly stated that the government has no money for new works and for clearing pending bills. "There is only ₹600 crore in the Water Resources Department. How can I clear pending bills of over ₹10,000 crore in my department?" he said recently. Mr. Shivakumar also holds charge of the Water Resources Department. Another pointer to the fund crunch is a letter to the Chief Minister written by several senior Congress MLAs, who missed berths in the Cabinet, expressing their unhappiness over the lack of funds to take up developmental works in their constituencies.

Mr. Siddaramaiah has blamed the BJP for what he calls a "financial mess". He alleged in July that the previous government approved works beyond budgetary provisions. He has also said that the Centre shows "stepmotherly treatment" in devolution of funds to Karnataka. Hitting back, the BJP has said that pending works are a feature of all government transitions and even the previous Siddaramaiah-led regime had left huge pending works for the incoming government.

The bottom line is that Karnataka is under fiscal stress. The government seems to be suggesting that mopping up revenues and increasing tax efficiency to fix the so-called "mess" will take up most parts of this fiscal year and that new works will have to wait for the next fiscal.

The cost of meals rose by 65% in five years, wages by just 37%

As food becomes increasingly unaffordable, more families are eating unbalanced or unfulfilling meals

DATA POINT

Sonikka Loganathan & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The cost of a home-cooked vegetarian thali in Mumbai has increased by 65% in the last five years. At the same time, the average wage earned by a casual labourer working in urban Maharashtra has increased by only 37% and that of a salaried worker has increased by 28%.

This disparity between wages/salaries and expenditure has led to essential food items becoming increasingly unaffordable. Given the fixed food budget in most Indian homes, the imbalance results in smaller thalis or fewer items in the thali leading to increasingly unbalanced or unfulfilling meals.

It has been assumed that an average Indian family will be able to meet their daily dietary needs if they consume food equivalent to two thalis per day, spread across breakfast, lunch and dinner. Non-vegetarian meals were not considered due to lack of past data. To avail commodity prices Mumbai was chosen as an exemplar due to the availability of consistent data. The wages and salaries in urban Maharashtra were considered as Mumbai-specific rates were not available.

To decode how much two thalis cost, on average, in Mumbai, the ingredients used were identified – white rice, toor dal, onion, garlic, green chilli, ginger, tomato, potato, peas, atta, cabbage, sunflower oil, salt, and rice – and the grams required for two servings were measured. The average retail cost for buying those ingredients in Mumbai – as on August 8 this year, a year ago (2022), three years ago (2020) and five years ago (2018) – were collated from the Consumer Affairs Ministry and the National Horticulture Board.

For instance, the cost of buying 125 grams of toor dal, which is required to make two thalis, increased from ₹13.1 to ₹21.1 in the past five years (**Table 1**). Similarly the cost of buying 100 grams of tomato increased from ₹5.7 to ₹17. In contrast, the price of 300 grams of potato decreased from ₹12 to ₹8. The cost of all the ingredients for two thalis totalled ₹112.6 this year, ₹82 last year, ₹81.4 in 2020, and ₹67.9 in 2018 (**Table 2**). In essence, the cost of making two thalis in a Mumbai household every day of a month increased from ₹2,037 in 2018 to ₹3,378 in 2023.

Table 3 shows the average daily wage of a casual labourer (other than in public works) and the average salary of a regular salaried employee in urban Maharashtra. Only the wages/salaries of men in Maharashtra were considered, as the latest labour force participation rate in Mumbai for men was 70.5% while it was 18.8% for women. The daily average wage of men in urban Maharashtra increased from ₹301 a day in 2018 to ₹414 a day in 2023. This was then extrapolated for 30 days to arrive at monthly earnings. The average salary of men in urban Maharashtra increased from ₹20,520 to ₹26,335 in the same period.

As can be seen from Tables 2 and 3, while the cost of making a thali increased by 65% in the past five years, daily wages increased only by 37% and salaries only by 28%.

The cost of making two thalis every day for a month, when considered as a share of wages/salaries, increased from 22.5% of a casual labourer's monthly earnings in 2018 to 27.2% in 2023. In the case of those who drew a regular salary, it increased from 9.9% to 12.8% in the same period, as shown in **Table 4**.

Although thali preparation requires more ingredients, such as spices and ghee, data was only available for the ingredients listed in Table 1. So, in reality, the cost of making a thali would be an even higher share of salaries/wages than what we ascertained in this exercise.

Thalinomics

The data for the charts were sourced from the Department of Consumer Affairs, the National Horticulture Board, the Periodic Labour Force Survey and the the Report on District Level Estimates for the State of Maharashtra

Table1

^Sunflower Oil All figures in ₹ except those in Column A (grams)

Item	A: Grams needed for two thalis	B: Cost of a kg. (Aug.8)	C: Cost (1 year before)	D: Cost (3 years before)	E: Cost (5 years before)	Buying price (Aug.8) (B*A/1000)	Buying price (1 year before) (C*A/1000)	Buying price (3 years before) (D*A/1000)	Buying price (5 years) (E*A/1000)
Toor dal	125	169	118	118	105	21.1	14.8	14.8	13.1
Salt	12.8	27	25	25	19	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Oil^	36.3	144	183	183	110	5.2	6.6	6.6	4.0
Onion	100	28	28	28	33	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.3
Garlic	25	180	80	180	50	4.5	2.0	4.5	1.3
Green Chili	25	80	60	80	50	2.0	1.5	2.0	1.3
Ginger	7.5	180	80	100	60	1.4	0.6	0.8	0.5
Tomato	100	170	29	29	57	17.0	2.9	2.9	5.7
Potato	300	27	40	40	40	8.1	12.0	12.0	12.0
Peas	60	180	100	120	60	10.8	6.0	7.2	3.6
Atta	250	56	53	53	36	14.0	13.3	13.3	9.0
Cabbage	250	80	60	40	40	20.0	15.0	10.0	10.0
Rice	125	43	34	34	32	5.4	4.3	4.3	4.0

Table 2

All figures in ₹

Cost	As on August 8	1 year ago	3 years ago	5 years ago
Cost of making two thalis in ₹	112.6	82.0	81.4	67.9
Cost of making one thali in ₹	56.3	41.0	40.7	34.0
Cost of making making two thalis every day for a month in ₹	3,378.5	2,460.1	2,440.6	2,037.2

Table 4

All figures in %

	As on August 8	1 year ago	3 years ago	5 years ago
The cost of making two thalis every day for a month, when considered as a share of **daily wage**	27.2	21.0	25.2	22.5
The cost of making two thalis every day for a month, when considered as a share of **regular salary**	12.8	9.8	9.9	9.9

Table 3

All figures in ₹

Average earnings in Maharashtra	As on August 8	1 year ago	3 years ago	5 years ago
Average wage earnings of a man per day from casual labour work other than public works in CWS*	414	391	323	301
Average wage/ salary earnings of a man during the preceding calendar month among the regular wage salaried employees in CWS*	26,335	25,092	24,661	20,521

* CWS: Current weekly status provides a snapshot of a person's employment situation during a particular reference week

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 30, 1973

Articles sold are not antiques: ex-ruler

Mysore, Aug. 29: The Palace authorities here have maintained that over 150 articles, which were prevented from being taken out from the summer palace of the former Mysore Maharaja, Mr. Jayachamaraja Wadiyar to Cochin en route to Australia on Sunday, were not antiques, but only "superfluous articles".

The removal of the articles from the palace were prevented under the instructions of the Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs, following representations made to him by local legislators.

A spokesman of the former Maharaja told newsmen yesterday that the Articles were "recent acquisitions" and were purely the personal property of the former Maharaja. These were sold to a private dealer in Australia and the bargain was completed a month ago. The former Maharaja was in no way less interested than anyone else in retaining antiques and that was the reason he had created a trust and preserved great art pieces in the Jaganmohan Palace.

The spokesman said that among the articles sold were 14 horse carriages, most of them in bad shape, four howdas made of wood, surplus chairs, teapoys, sofa sets and 93 other articles like lights and domes including chandeliers.

A list of materials sold had been sent to the Chief Minister for confirmation, he said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 30, 1923

British politics

Reuter's Special Service

London, Aug. 29: Discussing the problem of British foreign policy, the "Daily News" refers to the increasing demand that the Dominions be consulted regarding matters of moment, like relations with Egypt, quarrel with Turkey or reconstruction of Europe. The paper says that *home8 statesmen will do well to remember that the Dominions are now fully grown and claim equal share of responsibility in empire politics. If what they claim as a right is denied them even as a matter of good will, it will no longer be possible to rely on their close co-operation in a national emergency or in the conduct of imperial affairs. Another *Chanak* incident would intolerably strain the loyalty of Britain's overseas' kinsmen and would possibly end in utter disaster.

From Page One

When will you restore J&K Statehood, asks CJI

"You [the Union Government] can argue that right now we have an extreme situation in terms of national security and we want, for a stipulated period, a Union Territory to be created. You can say the creation of the Union Territory is not a feature of permanence, but it [Jammu and Kashmir] will progress back to its position of a State," Chief Justice Chandrachud suggested to Mr. Mehta.

Mr. Mehta agreed that this was "exactly what the government had said in the Parliament from day one". "Jammu and Kashmir will return to being a State after return to normalcy," he assured.

"You can say the Union of India wanted to have control for a certain period... After all, whether a Union Territory or a State, all of us will survive if the nation survives. Should we not give that allowance to the Parliament to postulate that for a certain period, for the preservation of the Union itself, this particular State should go into the fold of a Union Territory on the clear understanding that it will revert to Statehood over a period of time?" the Chief Justice posed.

In the hearing, Mr. Mehta affirmed that J&K was seeing better days after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. He said the erstwhile State had been plagued by incidents of terrorism, infiltration, pelting of stones, hartals, etc, before Post-abrogation, local elections had been held.

"But that means normalcy has been restored in Jammu and Kashmir. So is it not time to return Jammu and Kashmir to Statehood?" senior advocate Kapil Sibal intervened to ask the court.

The court also voiced its apprehensions about the source of the Parliament's power to transform States to Union Territories even as Mr. Mehta said the case of J&K, which has seen violence and cross-border terrorism for decades, was "one of its kind".

Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said there was a "problem" with the Centre's argument that J&K was one of its kind. He pointed to Punjab, another border State which saw violence, and the north-eastern States.

Mr. Mehta said the nation has borders with four countries, and not all of them are friendly.

"We cannot choose our neighbours. What the Chief Justice apprehends is would you go ahead and reorganise any of these States when you see trouble?... You cannot say that just because it is a border State, it has to be treated differently," Justice Kaul observed.

Centre slashes LPG prices ahed of polls

The Ministry said the move will bring respite to households across the nation. "Effective August 30, 2023, the price of a 14.2 kg LPG cylinder will be reduced by ₹200 in all markets across the country. In Delhi for instance, the decision will bring down the cost of a 14.2 kg cylinder from the existing ₹1,103 per cylinder to a more affordable ₹903 per cylinder," the Ministry said in a release. It added, "This reduction is in addition to the existing targeted subsidy of ₹200 per cylinder to the PMUY households, which will continue. For PMUY households therefore, the effective price in Delhi after this reduction will be ₹703 per cylinder."

Mr. Modi said, "Our government will always do everything possible that improves people's quality of life and benefits the poor and the middle class."

There are more than 31 crore domestic LPG consumers in the country, including 9.6 crore Ujjwala beneficiaries. "These decisions come as part of the government's ongoing efforts to ease the financial burden on citizens and promote the welfare of households. The reduction in cooking gas prices reflects the government's commitment to prioritise the well-being of its citizens and ensure access to essential commodities at reasonable rates," the Ministry added.

Manipur House ends session in 48 minutes

When Chief Minister N. Biren Singh started reading out a resolution, the Opposition MLAs began creating a ruckus demanding a five-day session. One of them was heard chanting "Save democracy".

As the decibel level increased, Speaker Thokchom Satyabrata Singh adjourned the session *sine die*. There was no Question Hour or private member motion.

In his address, Mr. Singh said: "With great sorrow, we condole the deaths of the people in the violence... Words seem inefficient for those who have lost their loved ones."

After the adjournment, the House resolved to work for the oneness and harmony of all people and strive to resolve all differences among people through dialogue and constitutional means.

Conspicuous by their absence were 10 Kuki MLAs, seven of them from the ruling BJP.

The brief session attracted flak from Congress leader Jairam Ramesh.

"What a farce! There was simply no reason why with its huge majority the ruling party could not have had the session for a few days at the very least. The reason is simple: if the Assembly Session had functioned, the differences and fissures within the BJP would have come into full display and that too on the floor of the Assembly," he wrote on X platform (formerly Twitter).

India lodges 'strong protest' with China over new map; 'absurd claims,' says Minister

Differences over the new map mar bilateral relations further, days after Xi-Modi meeting and ahead of G-20 summit in Delhi; the map also lays claim to the entire South China Sea, Taiwan

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday lodged a "strong protest" with China over the publication of a new map released by the Chinese government on Monday, showing all of Arunachal Pradesh, Aksai Chin, and other parts of Indian territory within its borders. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar called it "absurd claims".

Guarding territory: An Indian soldier sits inside an anti-aircraft gun in Tawang, near the LAC, in Arunachal Pradesh. AFP

The map, which had in the past claimed Indian territories as well, was published just days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Chinese President Xi Jinping and discussed resolving the boundary situation.

"We reject these claims as they have no basis. Such steps by the Chinese side only complicate the resolution of the boundary question," said the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson in a statement, responding to media queries. The spokesperson said that India has lodged "a strong protest through diplomatic channels" with the Chinese side on the so-called 2023 "standard map" that was released by the Chinese Ministry of Natural Resources. According to Chinese state media, the map was released during what is being called "National Mapping Awareness Publicity Week" in China, and would be followed by other digital and navigational maps.

The publication of the map was met with outrage by experts on social media, and criticised by the Opposition Congress party. Speaking to *NDTV*, Mr. Jaishankar, who served as Ambassador to China (2009 to 2013) said that this was an "old habit" of the Chinese government.

"Just by putting out maps with parts of India... this doesn't change in anything. Our government is very clear about what our territory is. Making absurd claims does not make other people's territories yours," Mr. Jaishankar said on Tuesday.

As *The Hindu* had reported, the map that India has objected to also lays claim to the entire South China Sea and Taiwan, all of which are the subject of disputes between China and its neighbours in South East Asia.

While the map is an annual exercise, the timing of its release is also significant ahead of the G-20 summit in Delhi on September 9-10, which Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to attend, along with nearly all other G-20 leaders other than Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has conveyed his inability to attend. Mr. Xi is also invited to Indonesia for the East Asia Summit and ASEAN meetings, where Prime Minister Modi is expected to travel as well.

Last week, Delhi and Beijing had issued conflicting readouts from the informal meeting between the two leaders that took place at the Leaders Lounge during the BRICS summit in South Africa, indicating that while the two countries are seeking to resolve the LAC military stand-off through talks, there are still wide differences in their positions.

While the MEA said that Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi had directed officials to resolve the LAC situation through "expeditious" disengagement and de-escalation, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs merely said that Mr. Xi had stressed the importance of improving relations.

Aksai Chin, Arunachal are inalienable parts of India, says Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> China is a habitual offender when it comes to renaming and redrawing maps of territories, belonging to other countries
> **MALLIKARJUN KHARGE**
> Congress president

Asserting that Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin included by China on its official map are inalienable parts of India, the Congress on Tuesday said that no illegal representation or arbitrarily invented map by the "habitual offender" could change it.

The principal Opposition party urged the Narendra Modi government to use the upcoming G-20 Summit to "expose" China's transgressions into Indian territory at the global stage.

"China is a habitual offender when it comes to renaming and redrawing maps of territories, belonging to other countries. The Indian National Congress takes strong objection to any such illegal representation or renaming of India's territories," Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, taking to social media platform X (formerly Twitter).

"We want a peaceful coexistence with our neighbours, including China and want peace and tranquillity at the LAC. It is, however, painful to note that China's deception and belligerence continues, post Galwan, in the wake of Prime Minister Narendra Modi giving them a free pass, by saying 'no one entered our territory', after 20 of our brave soldiers were martyred," Mr. Kharge said.

The Congress chief asserted that the *status quo ante* before May 2020 should be of utmost importance and the government must not budge from anything less than its restoration.

"We hope that the G-20 Summit in India, will be another opportunity for us to expose the issue of China's transgressions into Indian territory at the global stage," Mr. Kharge said.

Senior party leader and Lok Sabha member Manish Tewari also said China's claims on Arunachal Pradesh were "absurd, illogical and historically incorrect", and urged the government to introspect and reclaim Indian territories occupied by China during recent transgressions.

IAS officer alleges graft in Jal Jeevan Mission scheme in J&K, says he was harassed by L-G

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

A senior IAS officer has alleged irregularities in the procurement of pipes for the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) scheme in Jammu and Kashmir which has a ₹14,000-crore budget in the Union Territory.

The complaint alleges that high density polyethylene pipes were recently procured, though they were not fit for hilly areas. FILE PHOTO

In a complaint to the Union Home Ministry, Ashok Kumar Parmar, a 1992-batch IAS officer, has alleged that pipes unsuitable for hilly and remote areas were shortlisted by a committee that reports to the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir. Mr. Parmar had been the Principal Secretary of the Jal Shakti Department of the Union Territory between May 4 and August 7 in 2022.

In another complaint to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, Mr. Parmar alleged that J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta had harassed, intimidated and threatened him out of prejudice and bias against him for being a Scheduled Caste member.

Mr. Parmar feared that he could be implicated in false cases, as he had pointed out many financial irregularities and acts of omission and commission in the implementation of the scheme.

He alleged that after the Jal Shakti posting, he had been frequently transferred – once within 12 days, in violation of the transfer policy of the Government of India. He alleged that he was "thrown out of the meeting room" by Mr. Sinha on June 6, 2022, and from the Committee of Secretaries meeting on July 25, 2023.

Denying the allegations, a senior J&K government official told *The Hindu* that the officer was removed on grounds of irregularities.

In his complaint to Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla on July 18, Mr. Parmar alleged that the Chief Engineer of the Jal Shakti Department, Kashmir division, had floated tenders to supply centrifugally cast (or spun) ductile iron pipes for ₹690 crore based on an existing contract under a non-JJM scheme. The tender was floated in January 2022 and the orders were placed after a gap of six months in June 2022 under non-JJM specification, the complaint accessed by *The Hindu* said.

Under norms and a government order dated January 9, 2020, the purchase committee led by the Chief Engineer had to obtain administrative approval from the administrative secretary – in this case, Mr. Parmar, for procurement of civil work and pipes. However, this was never done.

In his complaint, Mr. Parmar alleged that high-density polyethylene pipes were recently procured in Jammu at a cost of ₹28.29 crore, in blatant violation of the General Financial Rules 2017, the Manual for Procurement of Works, 2019, and the Manual for Procurement of Consultancy and Other Services 2017, issued by the Expenditure Department of the Union Finance Ministry.

"HDPE pipes are not at all suitable for hilly and remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir where people frequently damage these pipes to collect water flowing through the pipes," the complaint alleged.

SC declines to set aside stay on wrestling body polls

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a plea filed by the Andhra Pradesh Amateur Wrestling Federation to lift Punjab and Haryana High Court's interim order staying the Wrestling Federation of India elections.

A Bench headed by Justice Abhay S. Oka advised the petitioner to move the jurisdictional High Court. "Why should we entertain this? Instead of applying for vacating the interim stay, the petitioner has chosen to approach the Supreme Court. We, therefore, decline to entertain this special leave petition," the Bench observed.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court had on August 11 stayed elections.

Two killed as violence erupts again in Manipur

The Hindu Bureau

Two persons were killed and several injured in fresh round of violence in Manipur on Tuesday.

Heavy exchange of fire was reported in the Khoirentak area on the boundary of the Churachandpur and Bishnupur districts.

The firing started hours before the Manipur Assembly session convened on Tuesday. It began around 6.30 a.m. and continued till late in the night, police said. One of the deceased was identified as Jangminlun Gangte (30), a village guard. The Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum said that Gangte was killed around 10 a.m. when Kuki-Zo villages around Khoirentak came under attack.

Indian Army signs deals for 130 tethered drones and 19 tank-driving simulators

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Army has signed contracts for the procurement of 130 tethered drones and 19 tank-driving simulators under Emergency Procurement (EP) and they will be delivered in 12 months. The armed forces are currently executing the fourth tranche of EPs sanctioned by the Defence Ministry.

"Indian Army has signed the contract for procurement of 130 Tethered Drones and 19 Tank Driving Simulators. The induction of such new equipment will enhance the overall operational preparedness...," the Army said in a post on social media.

In the past few months, the Indian Army has issued several tenders for a range of drones

The long-endurance tether drone systems are contracted at an approximate value of ₹250 crore and can be used in high-altitude areas, one official said.

In the last three years, in the backdrop of the stand-off in Ladakh, the Army had concluded a series of contracts with Indian start-ups for small drones for surveillance and load-carrying.

For instance, Noida-based start-up Raphe mPhibr Pvt. Ltd. got two separate orders from the Army, for 48 mR-20 logistics drones which can carry cargo of up to 20 kg in high-altitude areas for the infantry and 100 quadcopter drones for the Armoured Corps.

Similarly, Mumbai-based ideaForge won a repeat contract last year from the Army to supply 200 of its Switch Vertical Take Off and Landing (VTOL) mini-Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). The Army had earlier contracted drones that can hit targets with 5-10 kg explosives from Bengaluru-based firm NewSpace.

NHRC notice to U.P. for attack on student

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Days after a video showing a teacher of a private school in Muzaffarnagar asking Hindu students of her class to beat a Muslim student went viral and sparked nationwide outrage, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued notice to the Uttar Pradesh government seeking a detailed report on the matter.

The NHRC had taken *suo motu* cognisance of the matter as it observed that if true, the act amounted to violation of the victim's human rights.

"A notice has been issued to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh, calling for a detailed report within four weeks," it said.

APPEAL

I am 17 years old suffering from B cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and in urgent need of Chemotherapy and Radiation Therapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is Rs.8,00,000/-. My family is very poor and cannot afford this huge cost. Please help me to have a bright future. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & Google Pay (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No: 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **Women's Welfare Syndicate** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/ 7338978027. E-Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.**

Maha Prabhu

'Fear of INDIA bloc made govt. slash LPG cylinder price'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hours after the Narendra Modi government slashed the retail price of domestic LPG cooking gas by ₹200 a cylinder, top leaders belonging to the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc said the fear of losing elections and the Opposition parties coming together prompted the government to do so.

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "When the votes are decreasing, election gifts are beginning to start getting distributed! The merciless Modi government, which looted the hard-earned money of the people, is now feigning goodwill towards mothers and sisters... Fear of INDIA is good, Modi ji!"

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the sudden slash is also a result of the Karnataka rout of the BJP.

Trinamool Congress president and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee posted on X, "Till now, only TWO meetings have been held in the past TWO months by the INDIA alliance and today, we see that LPG prices have gone down by Rs. 200."

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav and NCP working president Supriya Sule also echoed the sentiment.

"If govt believes that LPG should be sold at this price, will they return the billions of rupees looted from people since 2014?" asked CPI general secretary D. Raja. CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said if the Centre stopped collecting cess and surcharges on petroleum products, a cylinder would cost much less even without a subsidy.

Cong. asks if SEBI is planning to let off Adani with just fines

Jairam Ramesh asks why ED, CBI were not asked to take action, and reiterates the need for a JPC probe; he says if media reports on fines are true, India's transition to 'kleptocracy' will be complete

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress hit out at the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Tuesday, citing media reports and asking whether the regulator, which is investigating allegations against the Adani Group, is planning to let off the conglomerate with "token fines for technical violations".

In a statement posted on X (formerly Twitter), Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said that if the media reports were true, then "India's transition to a kleptocracy will be complete". Mr. Ramesh also alleged that the message was clear that India's institutions would be rendered toothless while its investigative agencies would be used only to protect Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "close friends".

> The PM's pet agencies are investigating entities that shorted Adani shares rather than the far more serious charges of money laundering made against the group
>
> **JAIRAM RAMESH**
> Congress leader

"There has been a spate of news reports (perhaps more accurately termed "leaks") on the Supreme Court-mandated SEBI investigation of the Adani Mega Scam. If these reports are correct and SEBI is planning to let off Adani with token fines for technical violations, then India's transition to a 'kleptocracy' will be complete," he said.

The Congress leader recalled how, at the G-20 meeting held in Brisbane in November 2014, Mr. Modi had called for cooperation between nations to eliminate safe havens for economic offenders, track down and unconditionally extradite money launderers, and "break down the web of complex international regulations and excessive banking secrecy that hide the corrupt and their deeds".

"Yet he [Modi] has done all he can to protect his corrupt friends and their misdeeds. The PM's pet agencies are investigating entities that shorted Adani shares in January 2023 rather than the far more serious charges of money laundering and round-tripping that have been made against the Adani Group," he alleged.

No ED, CBI action

The SEBI has not asked the ED or the CBI to take further action against Adani at any point, even though "the securities market regulator suspects wrongdoing", Mr. Ramesh said, quoting the Supreme Court's Expert Committee on the Adani matter.

"Rather than compromised institutions, only a joint parliamentary committee probe can investigate the full extent of the Adani Mega Scam," he said.

INBRIEF

Ahead of INDIA meeting, Lalu launches sharp attack on Modi

Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad Yadav launched a sharp attack on the Prime Minister on Tuesday, saying he was going to "catch the throat of Narendra Modi". He was speaking just before leaving for Mumbai to participate in the third meeting of the Opposition coalition, the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA). The Opposition coalition's third meeting will be held in Mumbai on August 31 and September 1.

Imran Masood expelled from BSP, may rejoin Cong. in U.P.

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) on Tuesday expelled former Uttar Pradesh MLA and influential Muslim member Imran Masood for indiscipline and anti-party activities, after he heaped praise on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. In a statement, the party said the former MLA was involved in anti-party activities and despite warnings, there had been no change in his approach. After his expulsion, he said his heart is with Mr. Gandhi triggering speculation that he may rejoin the party. "My heart is with Mr. Gandhi, but it is up to my supporters to decide where I should go from here," he said.

Rahul Gandhi's Europe visit to coincide with Delhi G-20 meet

At the time when India will host the heads of the government of G-20 countries, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will be visiting Europe. He will interact with European Union lawmakers and address students at a university in Paris. He is likely to leave for Paris in the first week of September for a five-day tour, meet EU members in Brussels on September 7 and address the Indian diaspora. His visit overlaps with the G-20's New Delhi Summit on September 9 and 10.

Chidambaram nominated to committee on Home Affairs

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday nominated Congress leader P. Chidambaram to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

His nomination comes in the wake of the retirement of Congress MP P. Bhattacharya from the Rajya Sabha.

The committee is looking into the three new Bills seeking to replace the criminal laws Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act.

"The Chairman, Rajya Sabha has, on the 28th August, 2023, nominated Shri P. Chidambaram, Member, Rajya Sabha, to the Committee on Home Affairs vice Shri P. Bhattacharya, who retired from the membership of Rajya Sabha on the August 18, 2023," a bulletin said.

Conduct census with separate code for OBCs: Baghel to PM

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding that the national census be conducted with a separate code for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

He said that "despite the efforts of the State government", people belonging to the OBCs were not being provided the benefits of 27% reservation. He said denying constitutional rights to a major part of the population will inevitably cause angst.

In his letter, Mr. Baghel said Bill[s] to implement 32%, 13%, 27% and 4% reservation for Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, OBCs and EWS, respectively [in government jobs and educational institutions], passed by the Assembly were awaiting the Governor's approval. "In April, I sought 27% reservation for OBCs of Chhattisgarh and inclusion of this subject in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution. I am sure you will agree that it is necessary to provide reservation to the large OBC population, he wrote.

Lok Sabha polls may be held early: Nitish

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday predicted early Lok Sabha elections, due in 2024. He called for Opposition unity as a priority so that the BJP could be defeated.

Mr. Kumar was speaking to the media at Nalanda.

"Lok Sabha elections can be held any time. It is not necessary that elections would be held as per its schedule. The Central government can conduct elections anytime," Mr. Kumar said.

"My only work is to unite as many parties as possible. Personally, I don't aspire for any position or any post [in the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) grouping]," he added.

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tender

E-tender through e-procurement platform at **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** as per the instructions in the tender specification Coal (SHIP) -137 Dated **23.08.2023** for time chartering of One Self-Trimming Panamax / Kamsarmax gearless vessel for coastal movement of coal by TANGEDCO:

Sl. No.	Specification No.	Description of Work/Materials	Due Date & Time for submission of e-tender
1	Coal (SHIP) -137 Dated 23.08.2023	TIME CHARTERING OF ONE SELF-TRIMMING PANAMAX / KAMSARMAX GEARLESS BULK CARRIER VESSEL WITH THE LAYDAYS FROM 25TH SEPTEMBER 2023 to 10TH OCTOBER 2023 FOR PERIOD OF 9 MONTHS + 4 MONTHS + 3 MONTHS +/- 15 DAYS CHOPTION	14.09.2023 Upto 14:30 Hours

Submission of E-Tender: THROUGH THIS HYPERLINK **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
Date & Time of commencement of download of Tender Specification : **14:30 Hrs. on 30.08.2023**
Date & Time of closing of download of Tender Specification : **14:30 Hrs on 14.09.2023**
Soft copy of Tender Specification: The tender specification can be downloaded from TANGEDCO website **www.tangedco.gov.in,** from Tamil Nadu Government Website i.e. **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** and from National Informatics Center website **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** free of cost.
Tender will be opened: Through the NIC portal **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/4770/Tender/2023 **CHIEF ENGINEER / MECH / COAL, TANGEDCO / CHENNAI - 2**

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
PROJECT ORGANISATION
E-TENDER NOTICE No. T-SG-Proj-2023-03-OT
Dated: 28.08.2023

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Project, Tiruchchirappalli - 620 001 invites E-Tender for the following works.
Name of the Work: Provision of Augmenting Railnet Infrastructures upto Supervisor's Level at Important Locations (14 Stations) Over Southern Railway for Implementing e-office and other applications.
Cash Value (Approx) (₹) **5,91,05,418.94/-**; Earnest Money Deposit (₹) : **4,45,500/-**; Cost of Tender Document (₹): **NIL**; Last Date for Receipt of Tender: **20.09.2023, 14.30 hrs**; Completion Period: **09 Months**
Note: The detailed terms and conditions and other details have already been uploaded in the website **www.ireps.gov.in**
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

PUNJAB STATE GRAINS PROCUREMENT CORPORATION (PUNGRAIN)
Anaaj Bhawan, Sector-39C, Chandigarh.
Notice Inviting Tender

E-Tender for purchase of LDPE Black Polythene Tarpaulins for KMS 2023-24
Online bids under two bid system i.e. Technical Bid and Financial Bid are invited for supply of LDPE Black Polythene Tarpaulins to State Procurement Agencies for safe storage of paddy during KMS 2023-24 in the State of Punjab. Bids can be submitted from 12.00 PM on 30.08.2023 till 11.00 AM on 20.09.2023 through e-tendering portal of Govt of Punjab i.e. https://eproc.punjab.gov.in. Pre Bid meeting will be held on 05.09.2023 at 12.30 PM in the Committee Room, Pungrain, Head Office, Anaaj Bhawan, Sector 39- C Chandigarh. The detailed terms and conditions are also available of the website www.foodsuppb.gov.in. The cost of tender from (non-refundable) is Rs 6000/- including 18% GST.
Technical bids will be opened on 20.09.2023 at 01.00 P.M. in the Committee Room, Anaaj Bhawan, Sector-39C, Chandigarh in the presence of bidders who may wish to be present. The date and time of opening of financial bids will be notified online to technically eligible bidders.
Note: Tenders will be accepted through e-Tendering only. Any further communication will be done through e-Tendering sire in the form of addendum/ corrigendum.
RO no - 0/12/172/2023/27262 **Managing Director PUNGRAIN**

THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY
(A Central University) HYDERABAD - 500 007, Telangana
ADMISSION NOTIFICATION 2023-2024
(Second Round)
The English and Foreign Languages University invites registrations for the second round of admissions to the vacant seats in the Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Teacher Education programmes at Hyderabad and its two regional campuses at Shillong and Lucknow.
For details, visit the University website:**www.efluniversity.ac.in**
Last date of registrations for the above programmes is **02 September 2023.**
Date of online admission counseling: **04 September 2023.**
Candidates need not come to Hyderabad for Online Admission Counseling
Sd/-
REGISTRAR I/c

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
CHIEF EDITOR OFFICE, TIRUPATI. **e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**

e-Tenders are invited for "Printing and Supply of Sapthagiri Magazine on Annual Rate Contract basis". For Tender Notice & Details e-Tenders log on the web site https://www.tirumala.org and http://tender.eprocurement.gov.in.
For further details contact phone numbers:
0877-2264543, 2264359, Cell No.9866329955.
Roc.No.PR4/13957/Adv.No.171/PRO/2023, Dated:29-08-2023 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HPSRTP)
Request for Quotations (RFQ)

Name of Project:Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project (HPSRTP)
Loan No./Credit No.9066-IN
Grant No:
Date: August 29, 2023

The Director (Projects), H.P. State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002 , Himachal Pradesh India invites the Request for Quotations from national suppliers for the Goods Procurement as detailed in the table below:-

Sr. No.	Description of the Goods Procurement	Date of availability of Request for Quotations on HPRIDCL web site	Last date/Time for submission of Proposals / Opening of proposals
1.	Procurement of Fluorescent Winter Jackets & LED mounted Torches to Support Annual Enforcement Program of HP Police in Shimla & Nurpur Police Districts. **Ref No**: IN-HPRIDC -374949-GO-RFQ	**August 29, 2023**	**September 16, 2023 at 15:00/ 15:30 hours (IST)**

Request for Quotations (RFQ) will be available on the official web site of HPRIDC under link http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html .
Note: - Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Request for Quotations Proposals Documents shall be available to all interesting firms on the same web site link. Proposal must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post) by **September 16, 2023at 15:00 hours (IST)**
Executive Director -cum-SE (P&D)
State Roads Project, HPRIDC
Nirman Bhawan, Shimla-171002
HP / 0546/2023-2024

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HPSRTP)
Request for Bid (RFB)

Name of Project:Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project (HPSRTP)
Loan No./Credit No.9066-IN
Grant No:
Date: August 29, 2023

The Director (Projects), H.P. State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002 , Himachal Pradesh India invites the Request for Bids from national suppliers for the Goods Procurement as detailed in the table below:-

Sr. No.	Description of the Goods Procurement	Date of availability of Request for Bids on HPRIDCL web site	Last date/Time for submission of Proposals / Opening of proposals
1.	Procurement of Road Safety Enforcement Vehicles to Support Annual Enforcement Program of HP Police in Shimla & Nurpur Police Districts. **RFB Reference No.:** IN-HPRIDC -374705-GO-RFB	**August 29, 2023**	**September 20, 2023 at 15:00/ 15:30 hours (IST)**

Request for Bids (RFB) will be available on the official web site of HPRIDC under link http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html .
Note: - Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Request for Bids Proposals Documents shall be available to all interesting firms on the same web site link. Proposal must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post) by **September 20, 2023 at 15:00 hours (IST)**
Executive Director -cum-SE (P&D)
State Roads Project, HPRIDC
Nirman Bhawan, Shimla-171002
HP / 0545/2023-2024

Ph. No. 06670-235504; E_Mail: serwbpt@yahoo.com
GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS, CIRCLE, BHAWANIPATNA.
Bid Identification No.:- BPT/Online-22/2023-24 Date: 28.08.2023
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR ROAD WORKS IN ODISHA
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e - Procurement

1. Name of the Work : **Construction of Road works under MMSY-TRIP and SACI Schemes in the district Kalahandi for the year 2023-24.**
2. No of Works : **14 Nos.**
3. Location details : **Kalahandi District**
4. Estimated Cost : As per NIT
5. Period of Completion : As per NIT.
6. Cost of tender paper : **Rs.10,000/-** per set
7. Other details :

Availability of tender for online bidding		Last date & time for seeking tender clarification	Date and time of opening of technical bid
From	To		
01.09.2023 11.00 A.M.	14.09.2023 5.00 P.M.	13.09.2023	15.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the web site **"www.tendersorissa.gov.in"**
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Bhawanipatna
O-814: **OIPR-25102/11/0029/2324**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BOLANGIR.
e - Procurement NOTICE

1.	Name of Work	: **Construction of road under SACI in the district of Bolangir for the year 2023-24**
2.	No. of Work	: **8 (Eight) road Works.**
3.	Time for Completion	: **6 (Six) to 11 (Eleven) calendar months**
4.	Approximate Estimated Cost varies from	: **Rs.323.80 lakhs to Rs.1443.24 lakhs**
5.	Mode of Submission of tender	: Tender should be submitted online in **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
6.	**Other details are as follow**	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Date & Time of opening of tender Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir.	BLGR-Online-18/2023-24	02.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	17.09.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	16.09.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.	18.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	The date will be intimated to the technically qualified bidders later on

- Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
- Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only.

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir
O-808 : **OIPR-25118/11/0028/2324**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE
No: - 3631 / WE, Dt:- 21/08/23
"e" - Procurement Notice

1. **Name of the Work** : **"Building Work"**
2. **Estimated Cost** : **Rs.619.15 lakhs (approximately)**
3. **Time for Completion** : **As per Annexure including rainy season**
4. **No of Work** : **01 (One) Nos**
5. **Summary for key dates is provided below :-**

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding To	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender Technical Bid	Date & Time of Opening of Tender Financial Bid
1	2	3	4		5	6
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore.	N.C.B. No.- 27 of 2023-24	Dt.31.08.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.15.09.2023 Up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.14.09.2023 Up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.16.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website : **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
Any other changes/Corrigendums may be seen only in website : **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
S/d:- Er.S.K.Rout, Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore.
O-822: **OIPR-25105/11/0031/2324**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CENTRAL RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR
No. 4204 / Date:28.08.2023
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works

1.	Name of the Work	: 27 Nos. of Road Works
2.	Total No. of Works	: 17 No. of Road Works under SACI, 07 Nos. of road works under SDMF & 03 Nos. of road works under CMRL for the year 2023-24
3.	Estimated Cost of the Work	: Varies from Rs.175.81 lakhs to Rs.2070.75 lakhs
4.	Class of Contractor	:
	a) Estimated cost more than Rs.20.00 lakhs up to Rs. 3.00 Crores.	B Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
	b) Estimated cost more than Rs.1.00 Crores up to Rs. 20.00 Crores	A Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
	c) Estimated cost more than Rs.6.00 Crores up to Rs.50.00 Crores	Special Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
5.	Period of Completion	: As mentioned in Column-7 of Annexure
6.	Offered rates by bidder	: The offered rate by the contractor shall be excluding GST.
7.	Other details	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding To	Date & Time of Opening of Tender Technical Bid	Date & Time of Opening of Tender Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6
Chief Construction Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar	Tender - Online - C.C.- 32 of 2023	01.09.2023 at 11.00 AM	15.09.2023 Up to 5.00 PM	16.09.2023 at 11.00 AM	To be intimated lateron

Further details can be seen from the web site : **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
Chief Construction Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar.
O-821: **OIPR-25082/11/0022/2324**

INBRIEF

Culture corridor at G-20 leaders' summit in Delhi

A culture corridor showcasing the art, craft and heritage of all the G-20 nations and guest countries would be one of the highlights at the G-20 leaders' summit to be held in New Delhi next month. To be set up at the 'Bharat Mandapam', the corridor would have both physical and digital components. The digital repository would include 3D replicas of national treasures nominated by each of the G-20 countries, the sources said. India had reached out to all the G-20 member States earlier in the year to nominate one artefact each showcasing their culture for a digital exhibition which would be showcased at the culmination.

Brother of PoK-based militant shot dead in J&K, says officials

A civilian, who was the brother of a militant operating from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Kupwara on Tuesday. The victim was identified as Mukhtar Ahmad Shah. Officials said gunshots were reported from the Haridal area at night and later the body was spotted by the police and the Army. "The body was shifted to a hospital in Tangdhar for procedures. Later, the body was handed over to the family for the last rites. A case has been registered and a thorough investigation has been initiated," the police said.

Gujarat govt. raises OBC quota to 27% in local bodies

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat government on Tuesday announced a raise in the quota for OBCs from 10% to 27% in local bodies such as panchayats, municipalities and civic corporations on the basis of a commission report.

However, in areas notified under the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) (PESA) Act – most of them with substantial tribal population – the reservation for OBCs in local bodies will continue to be 10%.

The PESA-notified areas include 50 predominantly tribal talukas in eight districts of the state.

Also, the existing quota for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes remains unchanged and there has been no breach of the 50% reservation ceiling.

The government has not touched the reservation for Scheduled Castes at 14% and Scheduled Tribes at 7%.

The latest announcement paves the way for elections in as many as 7,000 village panchayats, two district panchayats and 70 municipalities across the State.

41.1% NREGS workers out of Aadhaar-based wage system

Fourth extension for starting payments through it ends tomorrow; NGO says 1.2 crore people in top five States will not be paid because their accounts are not enabled for the new system

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The fourth extension for mandatory payments under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) through the Aadhaar-based Payments System (ABPS) ends on August 31. As the numbers stand, out of the total 26 crore job card holders, 41.1% are still not eligible for this mode of payment.

The Ministry of Rural Development has ruled out any more extensions, saying that of the 14.4 crore who are active workers, only 18.3% are ineligible.

The ABPS uses the worker's unique 12-digit Aadhaar number as his or her financial address. The worker's Aadhaar details must be seeded with the job card and bank account. Aadhaar details should be mapped with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) database. The bank's institutional identification number (IIN) must itself be mapped with the NPCI database.

In Assam which has more than 63 lakh workers, 61.2% are not eligible, says LibTech in its study. E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

An analysis done by the non-profit organisation LibTech India shows that even among the active workers, the percentage of ineligibility varies from State to State. From the top five States – Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan – with active MNREGS workers, 1.2 crore will no longer be eligible for payments because they do not have ABPS-enabled accounts.

The picture from Northeast India too is dismal. In Assam, which has more than 63 lakh workers, 61.2% are not eligible and in Nagaland with 6 lakh beneficiaries, nearly 80% lack an ABPS account.

The government contends that ABPS accounts plug leaks, ensure speedy payments, and reduce rejections. However, a research paper authored by five scholars, four of whom are affiliated with LibTech India, reveals that the statistics do not hold up this claim. Their analysis is based on 31.36 million transactions across 10 States from 2021-22 recorded in the central database managed by the Ministry. The total amount involved in these transactions is ₹46.02 billion.

As per the paper, which is an analysis of payments to normal accounts versus Aadhaar-linked accounts, 36% of transactions were processed in seven days for normal account payments and 39% for ABPS. "Analysis reveals that there is no statistically significant difference in the time taken to process payments between the two payment types," Rajendran Narayanan, one of the authors of the paper, said. Mr. Narayanan teaches at Azim Premji University, Bangalore. He said the research also disproves claims that ABPS reduces rejections. "We find there is no statistically significant difference; 2.85% of account payments were rejected while 2.1% of ABPS payments were rejected," he added.

On the contrary, Mr. Narayanan said that there is significant anecdotal evidence that ABPS payments lead to a host of challenges for the workers. "The complaints vary from payments diverted to some other account of the same worker or misdirected payments to different account holders due to Aadhaar-linking errors," he added.

India, Kenya sign MoU for shipbuilding collaboration

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Goa Shipyard Ltd. and Kenya Shipyard Ltd. signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Tuesday for capacity building and collaboration in ship design and construction.

The MoU was signed as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Defence Aden Bare Duale discussed defence industry cooperation during talks.

"Both the Ministers agreed that the defence relationship between the two countries has evolved from being training-centric to include more strategic aspects. The two Ministers also concurred on the need for deeper cooperation in maritime security of the Indian Ocean region," a Defence Ministry statement said.

"As a token of friendship, Mr. Singh presented 15 pairs of parachutes (main and reserve) manufactured by Gliders India Ltd. to the Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Defence for use by the Kenyan forces.

India also extended support towards setting up of an advanced CT scan facility in Kenya," it stated.

Cyclone frequency may rise over Indian coast from the warming of Pacific: study

Jaob Koshy
NEW DELHI

A combination of global warming and Pacific Decadal Oscillation can lead to more cyclones

Tropical cyclones that originate near the Equator, while being devastating, have been unusually subdued in recent decades. The last major cyclone of this kind in India was Cyclone Okchi, which devastated parts of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka in 2017.

However, a combination of global warming and a cyclical event called the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) that repeats every 20 to 30 years, could make such cyclones more frequent in the coming years, a study published on Monday in the journal *Nature Communications* said.

The number of such equatorial-origin cyclones was 43% less in the period from 1981 to 2010 compared with 1951 to 1980, and this was because the PDO was in a 'warmer' or positive phase. A warming of the Central Equatorial Pacific, called an El Nino, often corresponds to reduced rainfall over India whereas cooler-than-normal temperatures, or a La Nina, is linked to excessive rainfall. This pattern, collectively called the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon, repeats in the Pacific over two to seven years. However, the PDO is not an annual occurrence and, on an average, corresponds to a warmer than average Western Pacific Ocean and relatively cooler Eastern Pacific, though this plays out over much longer time scales. However, unlike an ENSO, a 'positive' or 'warmer phase' of a PDO can be known only after several years of measuring ocean temperatures and their interaction with the atmosphere.

In 2019, the PDO entered a cooler, negative phase and if it remains so, could mean more tropical cyclones in the post-monsoon months that originate near the equator, R.S. Ajayamohan, meteorologist at the Abu Dhabi Polytechnic, UAE, told *The Hindu*. "It's usually rare for cyclones to form near the Equator but when the waters are warm, they can gain more moisture and rise in intensity," he said.

An El Nino is developing in the Pacific, the effects of which are manifested in central and southern India, which have recorded rainfall deficits of 7% and 17%, respectively.

Dispel doubts among tribes over sickle-cell disease test: Munda

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As the government tries to screen seven-crore tribal people for sickle-cell disease (SCD) and attempts to create a data bank of tribal people's health, Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda on Tuesday said there was considerable suspicion in the target tribal population over why the government was testing their blood.

Mr. Munda said this tended to create a negative impression in many, just as the rumours over COVID-19 vaccines had done earlier, and that the biggest challenge was to dispel these notions and ensure maximum community involvement in the mission.

Mr. Munda's remarks came as he was speaking at the launch of a training session for an awareness campaign that is part of the government's mission to make India "free" of SCD by 2047. This genetic blood disorder is especially prevalent among tribal populations in India.

As part of its mission, the government is trying to screen about seven-crore tribal people in 17 identified States for SCD and traits of SCD by 2025. Mr. Munda had said earlier this year that this exercise would be expanded to create a digital data bank of detailed health profiles of tribal people living in these areas to help government healthcare systems to accurately treat them.

"This target that we have set and started to achieve might make us feel like we are doing great. But there are also challenges at the same time. In places I have visited, a common question from the target population is, 'Why does the government want to test tribals' blood?'" he said at the launch of the campaign.

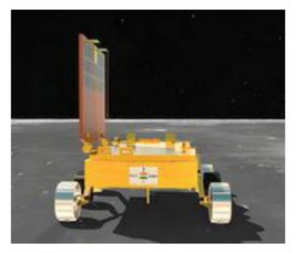
Pragyan confirms sulphur near south pole of moon; search on for hydrogen

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Pragyan, the rover of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, has confirmed the presence of sulphur on the moon's surface, near its south pole, and is still searching for hydrogen, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said on Tuesday.

The Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) instrument aboard the rover has made the first-ever in-situ measurements on the elemental composition of the lunar surface near the south pole.

"These in-situ measurements confirm the presence of Sulphur (S) in the region unambiguously, something that was not feasible by the instruments aboard the orbiters," the ISRO said.


Pragyan Rover

"Search for Hydrogen (H) is under way," it posted on X (formerly Twitter).

The LIBS is a scientific technique that analyses the composition of materials by exposing them to intense laser pulses. A high-energy laser pulse is focused onto the surface of a material, such as a rock or soil, and generates localised plasma.

The collected plasma light is spectrally resolved and detected by charge coupled devices. Since each element emits a characteristic set of wavelengths of light when in a plasma state, the elemental composition of the material can be determined.

"Preliminary analyses have unveiled the presence of Aluminum (Al), Sulphur (S), Calcium (Ca), Iron (Fe), Chromium (Cr), and Titanium (Ti) on the lunar surface. Further measurements have revealed the presence of manganese (Mn), silicon (Si), and oxygen (O). Thorough investigation regarding the presence of Hydrogen is under way," the ISRO said.

The Union Cabinet adopted a resolution hailing the Chandrayaan-3 mission, saying it is a victory not just for the ISRO but also a symbol of India's progress and ascent on the global stage. The Cabinet welcomed that August 23 would be celebrated as National Space Day.

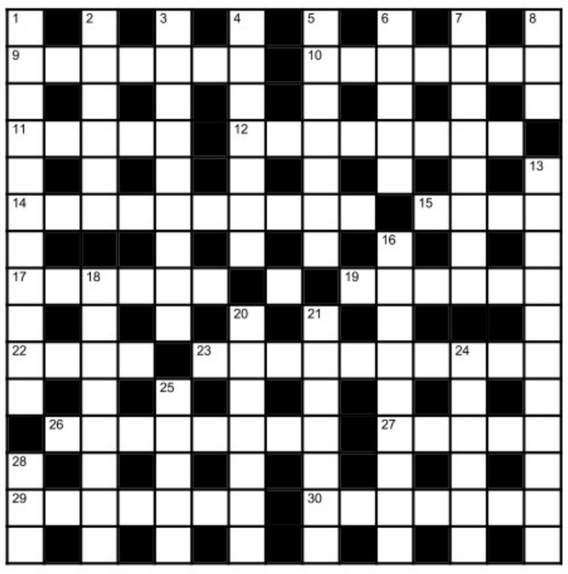
(With PTI inputs)

TH CROSSWORD + 13957

(set by Vidwan)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 Exiled English Royal, advancing and taking chances with money (7)
10 Places where endless money is on play? (7)
11 City partial to maharajas (5)
12 Unwelcome? I will give up! Go back! (3-5)
14 Straight thinking mostly...still... (4,6)
15 Stop editor's piece for one by a reader (4)
17 Accidental shift after speed of light overcomes acceleration due to gravity (6)
19 Date someone who soothes, not hard pusher (6)
22 Not a plastic body (4)
23 Rogue from poor street can withstand any cyclone (10)
26 What one indulges in at 10 Across? Good leisurely stroll! (8)
27 Risk with someone who grows old? (5)
29 Instrument Britain and the Spanish repeatedly use at the climax (7)
30 Males influence liberated females with a universal piece of poetry (7)

Down

1 Old-fashioned bets on close fights (11)
2 Gas slightly more than enough! (6)
3 Did courses, spent time teaching (9)
4 Something that kindles scorn, mostly about sex! (7)
5 Conditions thus can create the cool guys (7)
6 97+115+99+105+105 is like 10011 (5)
7 Cosmopolitan cops in winter polo-necks (8)
8 Request work time-off (3)
13 I use door for actively spreading fragrance (11)
16 They predicted about a captured soldier creating nations with powerful navies (3,6)
18 A consumer over time becomes a beast (8)
20 Occasionally for X (2,5)
21 Art creation mostly takes a minute (7)
24 Starts replacing liquor with drug for wild festivities (6)
25 Monastery constructed by a bishop around middle of Barcelona (5)
28 Solution for this? Left out! (3)

SUDOKU

	6	7						
		4			8	7	1	9
9				4	7			6
	1		9	2				
				8	6		5	
8			7	1				2
4	3	1	2			8		
						4	9	

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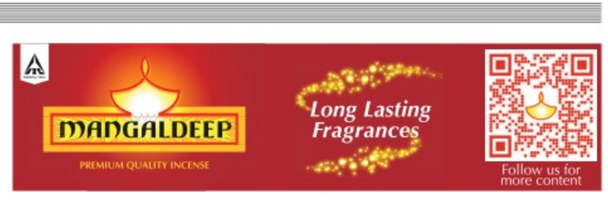
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

		C	O	N	S	T	A	B	U	L	A	R	Y	
D		H		I		O		A		A		O		D
I	N	E	R	T			D	E	R	R	I	N	G	E	R
S		A		P		I		B		D		E		U
R	E	P	T	I	L	E		E	G	O	T	R	I	P
O		J		C		F		D		F				E
B	L	A	C	K	B	O	X		O	F	T	E	N	
E		C				R		C				S		U
	O	K	R	A	S			D	O	G	R	A	C	E	S
A				L		G		N		U		A		U
S	T	E	A	L	T	H		C	O	B	B	L	E	R
S		D		E		E		E		B		A		P
E	V	E	R	A	F	T	E	R		I	S	T	L	E
S		M		R		T		T		S		E		R
	R	A	G	S	T	O	R	I	C	H	E	S		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	9	5	1	7	2	8	4	6
8	2	7	4	6	9	5	3	1
6	4	1	5	8	3	7	9	2
9	3	4	2	5	6	1	8	7
7	8	6	9	4	1	2	5	3
1	5	2	8	3	7	9	6	4
2	1	3	6	9	8	4	7	5
4	6	8	7	1	5	3	2	9
5	7	9	3	2	4	6	1	8



FAITH

Doctrine of surrender

The Ramayana explains the doctrine of surrender from beginning to end. Velukkudi Sri Krishnan Swamy said in a discourse that initially all the celestials prayed and surrendered to Lord Narayana to save them from the atrocities of Ravana.

Lakshmana surrendered at the feet of Sri Rama and insisted that he too be permitted to go to the forest with his brother. Demon Kakasura submitted at the feet of the Lord after having nowhere to go.

Sri Alavandar explains in Stotra Ratnam that there are different kinds of people such as evil-minded, jealous, fickle-minded and disrespectful who are prone to commit mistakes.

Sri Ramanuja says people commit sins incurring the displeasure of God, His devotees and others.

A mere surrender will eradicate all our sins. A sinner can escape God's displeasure by expressing repentance. He should take a resolve that he would never sin again. If a person thinks that he commits innumerable mistakes, his destination is too far (Sri Vaikuntam), and the means to wipe out his sins and reach the destination is too small, then it shows he lacks the utmost good faith.

Vibhishana resorted to this simple method and took refuge in Sri Rama.

SAINT PETERSBURG

Russian mercenary boss Yevgeny Prigozhin buried in private

REUTERS

A private burial was held for Russian mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin, his press service said on Tuesday, urging mourners to pay their respects at a cemetery in Saint Petersburg. The head of Wagner group was killed last Wednesday in a plane crash, two months after declaring a armed rebellion. AFP

WASHINGTON

California Assembly passes anti-caste discrimination Bill

AP

The California State Assembly has passed an anti-caste discrimination Bill that seeks to combat caste discrimination and strengthen protections for marginalised communities across the State. The Bill was passed by the Assembly on Monday. It now heads to Governor Gavin Newsom for his signature to make it into law. PTI

SAN FRANCISCO

'Spamouflage': Meta targets Chinese influence campaign

REUTERS

Meta on Tuesday said it purged thousands of Facebook accounts that were part of a widespread online Chinese spam operation trying to covertly boost China and criticise the West. The campaign, which became known as "Spamouflage", was active across more than 50 platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and X. AFP

WASHINGTON

Eminem asks Ramaswamy to not use his music in election campaign

AFP

Rap star Eminem has asked Republican presidential hopeful Vivek Ramaswamy to stop using his music on the campaign trail. A video of Mr. Ramaswamy, who is enjoying a surge in the Republican primary race, singing along to Eminem's "Lose Yourself" at the Iowa State Fair went viral earlier this month. AFP

Pakistan court suspends Imran Khan's sentence in Toshakhana graft case

The former PM will, however, continue to remain in jail in a separate case; Khan was sentenced on charges of unlawfully selling state gifts acquired by him and his family during his tenure as premier

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

A High Court in Pakistan on Tuesday suspended Imran Khan's three-year sentence in the Toshakhana corruption case and ordered his release from jail, but the embattled former Prime Minister will continue to remain in prison in a separate case related to the alleged disclosure of state secrets.

A Division Bench comprising Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Aamir Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri announced the much-anticipated verdict to release Mr. Khan, leaving many to guess if it is a relief ahead of the elections or just a stopgap arrangement to fix him in another case.

"All we are saying now is that (Khan's) request has been approved," Justice Farooq said, referring to the former premier's appeal against his conviction and prison term.

Mr. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party said the decision of the district court on August 5 had been suspended by the High Court.

The Bench also ordered the release of the 70-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician on the production of surety bonds worth Rs. 1,00,000.

Feeling upbeat: Lawyers and supporters of Imran Khan celebrate outside the Islamabad High Court on Tuesday. AFP

However, the former Prime Minister will continue to remain in prison as a special court holding his trial in the Official Secrets Act directed the Attock Jail authorities to keep him in the "judicial lockup" and produce him on August 30 before the court. The case launched earlier this month alleged that Mr. Khan and others were involved in the violation of the secret laws of the country.

The High Court Bench reserved the verdict on Monday after the rival lawyers concluded their arguments on the suspension of the conviction and three-year sentence handed down to Mr. Khan by Additional District and Session Judge, Islamabad, Humayun Dilawar – a ruling that barred him from contesting general elections.

Mr. Khan was sentenced on charges of unlawfully selling state gifts acquired by him and his family during his 2018-2022 tenure. He was also barred from politics for five years, preventing him from contesting an upcoming election.

Election time

The main issue for supporters of the former premier is if he would be allowed to lead the party in the forthcoming elections.

According to experts, it depends on settling the issue of his disqualification.

"He was disqualified by the Election Commission of Pakistan after conviction in the Toshakhana case and the disqualification is not affected by mere suspension of sentence," senior lawyer Irfan Qadir said in a TV interview.

He said that the disqualification was linked with the decision of the appeal by Mr. Khan against conviction. Others believe that disqualification has also been suspended. "When sentence is suspended, the disqualification is also suspended," lawyer Qauseen Raza said. The matter may ultimately land in the High Court or the Supreme Court to decide if disqualification was suspended or not.

General elections are scheduled to be held in Pakistan within 90 days after the dissolution of the National Assembly, which was prematurely dissolved on August 10 by President Arif Alvi.

However, the polls are likely to be delayed as the government has announced that the elections could take place only after a new census is completed and new constituency boundaries are drawn.

A Pakistani court on Tuesday also granted pre-arrest bail to Bushra Bibi, wife of Mr. Khan, till September 12 in multiple graft cases.

Shehbaz slams Imran sentence suspension, calls it 'dark chapter'

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday slammed Supreme Court Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial for "favouring" Imran Khan, saying his messages to the lower courts led to the suspension of sentence of the former premier and called the verdict a "dark chapter" in the country's history.

Taking a jibe at Mr. Khan, he said, "The 'favourite's' sentence has been suspended, not terminated." "Chief Justice's message of 'Good to see you' and 'Wishing you good luck' reached Islamabad High Court. If everyone knows what the decision will be before the decision comes, it should be a moment of concern for the justice system," the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz president said, slamming the court for suspending Mr. Khan's sentence.

He said when a "clear message" was received from the higher judiciary, the subordinate court would follow suit. On Wednesday, the apex court, after hearing petitions against the Toshakhana case, observed that there were "shortcomings" in the judgment of the sessions court.

Israeli PM thanks Saudi Arabia after emergency landing

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday thanked authorities in Saudi Arabia – with which his country has no formal ties – for their "warm attitude" following an emergency aircraft landing in Jeddah.

Saudi airspace had been closed to flights to and from Israel until July 2022, when it opened to coincide with a visit by U.S. President Joe Biden to the region.

The Air Seychelles flight laden with 128 Israeli passengers was heading from the Seychelles to Tel Aviv. It made an emergency landing on Monday in Jeddah. On Tuesday, the Israeli Foreign Ministry said a charter flight had retrieved the Israelis from Jeddah. "I greatly appreciate the warm attitude of the Saudi authorities to the Israeli passengers whose flight was in distress and was compelled to make an emergency landing in Jeddah," Mr. Netanyahu said in a brief video statement.

Though Saudi Arabia was not one of the Gulf and Arab countries to normalise ties with Israel as part of the 2020 U.S.-brokered Abraham Accords, speculation has grown of an impending deal.

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UBIN ID:.....
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NIT 37/- PHE2324WSOB05868
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NIB Code: PWD2324A2246, UBN No.: PWD2324WSOB10251
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. वृत्त बारां
डीआईपीआर/सी/12142/2023

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त-भरतपुर
क्रमांकः 1189 दिनांकः 16.08.2023
अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्याः 11/2023-24
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से जिला भरतपुर में विभिन्न योजनान्तर्गत वर्ष 2023-24 में कुल 08 पैकेज निर्माण कार्य (दोष निवारण अवधि 5 वर्ष सहित) के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्रीय सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के विभिन्न सक्षम श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।
निविदा से संबंधित समस्त विवरण बेवसाईट "www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" एवं "www.sppp.raj.nic.in" पर देखा जा सकता हैं। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से बेवसाईट "www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" पर रजिस्टर करवाना आवश्यक है।
NIB No. PWD2324A2359 & UBN No.

PWD2324WSRC10662	PWD2324WSRC10663	PWD2324WSRC10664
PWD2324WSRC10665	PWD2324WSRC10666	PWD2324WSRC10667
PWD2324WSRC10668	PWD2324WSRC10669	

DIPR/C/12496/2023
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. वृत्त-भरतपुर

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, नगर खण्ड 3, जयपुर
क्रमांकः- 3734 दिनांक 17.08.2023
अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 29/2023-24
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए पीडब्ल्यूएफ एण्ड ए आर पार्ट II अपेण्डिक्स 16 दिनांक 1.07.1999 से लागू एवं समय समय पर पंजीयन नियमों सम्बन्धी वित्त विभाग द्वारा जारी आदि दिनांक संशोधित परिपत्रों के अनुरूप इस विभाग में उपयुक्त श्रेणी मे पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से मोहरबन्द निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाइट www.dipronline.org, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/ & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड करने की तारीख	21.08.2023 (सोमवार) प्रातः 9.30 बजे से 31.08.2023 (गुरूवार) तक सायं 6.00 बजे तक
निविदा जमा कराने की तारीख	21.08.2023 (सोमवार) प्रातः 9.30 बजे से 31.08.2023 (गुरूवार) तक सायं 6.00 बजे तक
प्री बिड की दिनांक	25.08.2023 (शुक्रवार) को अपरान्ह 02.00 बजे से कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सानिबि वृत्त शहर जयपुर
तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तारीख	01.09.2023 (शुक्रवार) को अपरान्ह 03.00 बजे से
वित्तीय बिड खोलने की दिनांक	तकनीकी बिड का आंकलन होने के उपरान्त आनलाईन सूचित कर दिया जावेगा।

NIT S. No	UBN No.
1	PWD2324WSOB10698

(अनिल कुमार गुप्ता)
अधिशासी अभियन्ता
सानिवि नगर खण्ड तृतीय, जयपुर
DIPR/C/12121/2023

More than 1,000 schools destroyed in Ukraine since war began, says UNICEF

Reuters
GENEVA

More than 1,300 schools have been totally destroyed in government-held areas of Ukraine since Russia's 2022 invasion and others have been badly damaged, the UN children's fund UNICEF said on Tuesday.

Persistent attacks mean that only about a third of school-age children there are attending classes fully in person and many are forgetting what they have already learned, it said.

Beyond Ukraine, more than half of the children whose families have fled the conflict to seven countries are not enrolled in national education, UNICEF said, citing language barriers and overstretched education systems.

Some schools have suffered direct hits and others have closed down as a precaution in 18 months of missile and artillery attacks on residential areas across the country. "Inside Ukraine, attacks on schools have continued unabated, leaving children deeply distressed and without safe spaces to learn," it said.

Learning gap: A file photo of a school damaged by Russian military strike in the town of Avdiivka. REUTERS

4 years of disruption

The war followed COVID-19 disruptions, meaning some Ukrainian children were facing a fourth consecutive school year of disruptions as they return to classes this week after the summer break, UNICEF said.

"Not only has this left Ukraine's children struggling to progress in their education, but they are also struggling to retain what they learnt when their schools were fully functioning," said Regina De Dominicis, UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia.

Around half of Ukraine's teachers have reported a deterioration in students' abilities in language, reading and mathematics, it said, and they have missed out on the sense of safety and friendships school can provide to those enduring war.

U.S. to send $250 million in military aid to Ukraine

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The U.S. on Tuesday announced a new $250 million military assistance package for Ukraine that includes equipment for clearing mines and obstacles.

Kyiv's forces are struggling to make substantial gains in a counteroffensive launched earlier this summer that has run into tough Russian defences. The assistance will "help Ukraine counter Russia's ongoing war of aggression on the battlefield and protect its people," the Pentagon said in a statement.

Also included in the package are air defence missiles, artillery rounds, anti-armour missiles and more than three million rounds of small arms ammunition.

Washington has committed to providing tens of billions of dollars in military aid to Kyiv since Russia's invasion began.

INBRIEF

Hero MotoCorp unveils Karizma XMR premium bike

Hero MotoCorp Ltd. has unveiled premium motorcycle Karizma XMR at an introductory price of ₹1,72,900 ex-showroom Delhi. The motorcycle, with a 210-cc liquid cooled DOHC engine and six-speed transmission, was jointly developed by the Hero Center for Innovation and Technology (CIT) in Jaipur and the Hero Tech Centre Germany (TCG) near Munich. "We are rapidly building full portfolio in this segment, in line with our strategy," said CEO Niranjan Gupta.

Lupin gets U.S. FDA nod for generic Pirfenidone capsules

Drugmaker Lupin has received the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) approval for its abbreviated new drug application for Pirfenidone capsules, 267 mg. A generic equivalent of Hoffmann La Roche Inc.'s Esbriet Capsules, 267 mg, the product will be manufactured at the Pithampur facility, Lupin said on Tuesday. The drug is indicated to treat idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Pirfenidone capsules had an estimated annual sales of $95 million in U.S., Lupin said.

Byju's business head resigns amid rejig at edtech start-up

Byju's Chief Business Officer Prathyusha Agarwal and two other senior executives have resigned as the struggling Indian edtech start-up restructures its business and operations, a company spokesperson said on Tuesday. Ms. Agarwal had joined Byju's in February 2022 from Zee Entertainment Enterprises. Two other business heads - Himanshu Bajaj and Mukut Deepak - had also left, the company, once India's most valuable start-up, said. REUTERS

'Monsoon woes may lift food prices'

Wide spatial and temporal variations in rainfall coupled with lower reservoir storage levels may hit rural incomes and crop output this year thus denting demand and increasing inflationary pressures, economists at CARE Ratings and BoB caution

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Weak rainfall this month with wide spatial and temporal variations over the monsoon season, could hit crop output and rural incomes while spurring food prices higher, according to economists.

In August so far, rainfall is 32% below the long period average (LPA) for the month, dragging the southwest monsoon's overall tally to 8% below its long-term average. Kharif sowing for crops like pulses (-8.3%), jowar (-7.7%) and oilseeds (-0.9%) remains lower than last year, and lower reservoir levels (currently below the 10-year average) may also impact the overall rabi crop which has greater dependency on irrigation.

"Below normal rains have... [hit] central, southern peninsula and eastern region," said Bank of Baroda economist Jahnavi Prabhakar. "The impact of this scanty rainfall is likely to be reflected through higher prices in the coming months," she added.

"As kharif sowing activity is expected to be over by the end of August, the sowing of these crops is unlikely to improve drastically," CARE Ratings economists wrote in a report on Tuesday. "A drop in yield due to irregular monsoon and a lower acreage can lead to a demand-supply mismatch, further increasing inflationary pressures in the food basket," they noted, adding that pulses and cereals were already seeing double-digit inflation.

'Stagnant wages'

A rise in food inflation could further destabilise the feeble rural demand recovery, they reckoned, stressing that the weaker monsoon could hit crop yields and farm incomes while virtually stagnant wages, which account for 49% of rural household incomes, also pose a risk.

"Rural demand remains most vulnerable and can be hit by a dual blow of higher food inflation and lower income," the CARE economists noted.

Rainfall risks

Economists have flagged the risks posed to inflation and growth by the erratic variations in this year's southwest monsoon

- In August so far, rainfall is 32% below the month's long period average (LPA), dragging the overall monsoon tally to 8% below the LPA
- Lower reservoir levels (currently below the 10-year average) may also hurt the rabi crop
- A rise in food inflation could further destabilise the feeble rural demand recovery

IT services revenue growth to slow to 3% in FY24: ICRA

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

There has been 'persistent uncertainty' in key markets for Indian IT companies

Indian IT services sector's revenue growth will slow down to 3% in the current fiscal from 9.2% in the earlier financial year, a domestic ratings company said on Tuesday.

ICRA Ratings said profitability will also take a beating in this financial year and the operating profit margin will narrow by up to 1 percentage point to 20-21%.

The topline growth will come down to 3-5% in FY24 from the 9.2% posted in FY23, the agency said, attributing the slowdown to softening demand.

The agency's sector head Deepak Jotwani said there has been "persistent uncertainty" in key markets for IT companies which has resulted in pauses and deferral of non-critical projects and slowdown in discretionary IT spends by key sectors like banking, financial services and insurance, retail, technology and communication.

As per industry lobby Nasscom, the sector directly employs over 50 lakh people while analysts say it was crucial for the post-pandemic recovery of the economy because of the impressive growth in the sector as demand for technology inputs grew.

Mr. Jotwani said lower operating leverage would limit the impact of the slower revenue growth on profitability, and the ability of most companies to work with multiple levers such as onshore-offshore mix, employee utilisation levels, employee pyramid optimisation, and the ability to manage costs would help.

'New levy stalls rice export of 5 lakh mt'

Reuters
MUMBAI

India's move to impose a 20% duty on exports of parboiled rice has prompted buyers and sellers to postpone shipments of about 5,00,000 metric tonne (mt) to after mid-October to avoid paying the tax, three leading exporters told Reuters.

The delay from the world's biggest exporter of rice could deplete inventories in importers such as Benin, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, and Liberia, and boost local prices in those countries, which are already near multi-year highs.

India, which is scrambling to tame inflation ahead of State elections later this year, on Friday expanded curbs on rice exports with a 20% duty on parboiled rice that will be effective until October 15.

"Buyers are postponing the shipments; nobody is willing to pay the duty," said Himanshu Agarwal, executive director at Satyam Balajee, an exporter.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	65,076	0.12
US Dollar	82.80	-0.20
Gold	59,800	0.41
Brent oil	84.75	0.53

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2506.45	34.00
Adani Ports	823.55	16.10
Apollo Hosp	4878.40	-27.05
Asian Paints	3285.70	26.00
Axis Bank	980.70	-9.50
Bajaj Auto	4664.55	64.10
Bajaj Finserv	1503.45	3.55
Bajaj Finance	7293.35	57.75
Bharti Airtel	855.20	-15.15
BPCL	356.80	1.50
Britannia Ind	4530.75	19.80
Cipla	1229.75	0.85
Coal India	229.95	0.50
Divis Lab	3657.10	23.85
Dr Reddy's Lab	5723.80	-52.10
Eicher Motors	3355.35	7.00
Grasim Ind	1801.80	17.15
HCL Tech	1157.55	11.10
HDFC Bank	1590.30	12.55
HDFC Life	634.90	7.55
Hero MotoCorp	2988.15	56.40
Hindalco	456.05	9.75
Hind Unilever	2526.15	-29.55
ICICI Bank	967.75	-2.80
IndusInd Bank	1400.15	-9.30
Infosys	1417.65	2.00
ITC	440.10	-1.30
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	220.25	9.10
JSW Steel	782.65	9.65
Kotak Bank	1783.10	-7.25
L&T	2718.95	23.60
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5136.75	6.80
M&M	1560.85	11.60
Maruti Suzuki	9621.25	23.55
NestleIndia	22063.00	28.55
NTPC	221.10	2.40
ONGC	175.70	0.50
PowerGrid Corp	251.15	2.65
Reliance Ind	2420.35	-23.40
SBI Life	1297.20	5.65
State Bank	574.85	2.00
Sun Pharma	1111.60	-5.40
TataConsumerProduct	838.25	-3.55
Tata Motors	607.15	4.75
Tata Steel	119.55	1.95
TCS	3376.15	0.60
Tech Mahindra	1198.00	13.25
Titan	3079.40	30.85
UltraTech Cement	8199.70	82.05
UPL	597.60	12.45
Wipro	408.10	0.05

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 29

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.51	82.83
Euro	89.19	89.54
British Pound	103.96	104.37
Japanese Yen (100)	56.25	56.47
Chinese Yuan	11.32	11.37
Swiss Franc	93.26	93.62
Singapore Dollar	60.89	61.14
Canadian Dollar	60.62	60.86
Malaysian Ringitt	17.75	17.83
Australian Dollar	53.14	53.35

Source:Indian Bank

R. Dinesh

TVS SCS names Dinesh as Executive Chairman

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd. (TVS SCS) elevated Executive Vice-Chairman R. Dinesh as the Executive Chairman.

Chairman S. Mahalingam stepped down on Tuesday after completing two terms as independent director, the supply chain solutions provider added.

'UCAL exploring avenues in alternate energy, EV sectors'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Jayakar Krishnamurthy

Leading automotive components maker UCAL Ltd. said it is exploring opportunities in new business streams with innovative, cutting-edge products for niche applications in emerging segments.

"Anticipating the possibilities in the rapidly growing EV segment, UCAL is developing products tailored for the EV and alternate energy sector," CMD Jayakar Krishnamurthy said in the latest annual report. To expand its presence in the EV and alternate energy space, UCAL has devised a plan, said CEO Abhaya Shankar. Besides, an electronics R&D team has been created to expand its presence in the electronics space.

According to him, UCAL is designing and developing a new line of products in electronic control unit and automotive electronics for the EV segment such as DC-DC converters, throttle grip sensors and tyre pressure sensors.

Tata unveils new electric vehicle brand, Tata.ev

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Passenger Electric Mobility, a subsidiary of Tata Motors, has announced the introduction of its new brand identity, TATA.ev, for the electric vehicle business.

"This new identity is aligned to Tata Motors' commitment on sustainability and pioneering innovation," the company said in a statement.

Vivek Srivatsa, Head, Marketing and Sales, Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd., said: "We are entering a new era with TATA.ev. Our new brand for electric vehicles underlines our commitment to clean energy mobility solutions."

Omron Healthcare India aims to double revenue in 3 to 5 years

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Japanese company Omron Healthcare Co. Ltd.'s subsidiary Omron Healthcare India Pvt. Ltd., which is into the supply of home healthcare monitoring devices in India, plans to double its revenue in 3-5 years, the unit's Managing Director Tetsuya Yamada said in an interview.

He said India offered huge potential for growth considering very low penetration levels and demand for home monitoring devices which could grow with more awareness on hypertension and heart-related diseases.

"Our turnover in India is just 3% of the global turnover. This 3% is also same as in Brazil. But look at the population of Brazil [about 22 crore] and India [140 crore]. Now we plan to double our sales in 3 to 5 years," he said.

Mr. Yamada said the current penetration of blood pressure monitors in India was 2% of the exposed population [people who are already diagnosed with hypertension] as compared with 20% in Brazil, 35% in China and 40% in Russia. "So, you can imagine the potential for growth in India," he added.

He said the company would achieve its targets by simply doubling the volume of business through increased awareness and distribution.

To broad-base its offerings the company is planning to collaborate with healthcare service providers who are into remote health monitoring.

"We want to promote home-based blood pressure monitoring. We want to do the same thing for the ECG. It is still not the habit for people to conduct ECG at home," Mr. Yamada observed.

Wiebusch to succeed Narain at Bayer unit

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Simon-Thorsten Wiebusch will take over as President, Bayer South Asia and Vice-Chairman, MD & CEO of Bayer CropScience Ltd. (BCSL) on November 1.

He will take on the new responsibilities along with his current role as Country Division Head of India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka cluster in Crop Science.

Bayer said Duraiswami Narain, currently President, Bayer South Asia; Vice-Chairman, MD & CEO of BCSL will demit office on October 31, and return to Bayer U.S.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division,
No. 2152/20, Defence colony, BWSSB tank road, Sahakarnagara, BBMP office, Byatarayanpura Bangalore - 560092.

No. EE/BTP/BBMP/E-PMT/05/2023-24 Date: 28-08-2023

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS (IFT)
(Single Cover System) (Through GOK E-procurement Portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

Tender for the following works on item rate basis are invited as Standard Bid Documents by the Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD / Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations may apply through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** as per schedule of events.
The Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home)** on payment of prescribed fee (Non Refundable)

SL No.	W. No.	Name of the work	Approx. Value of work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (In Rs)
1	6	Estimate for preparation of Immersion of Ganesh Idols in Ward No. 06 in Kogilu Lake. **(SC Category)**	5.00	6,250/-
2	8	Estimate for preparation of Immersion of Ganesh Idols in Ward No. 08 in Jakkur Lake.	5.00	12,500/-
3	9	Estimate for preparation of Immersion of Ganesh Idols in Ward No.09 in Rachenahalli Lake. **(SC Category)**	5.00	6,250/-
4	10	Estimate for preparation of Immersion of Ganesh Idols in Ward No.10 in Sahakaranagara kalyani.	4.00	10,000/-
5	10	Estimate for preparation of Immersion of Ganesh Idols in Ward No.10 in Heballa Lake.	8.00	20,000/-
6	13	Estimate for preparation of Immersion of Ganesh Idols in Temporary Immersion Tank ward no-13 in Doddabommasandra Lake.	6.50	16,250/-
7	14	Estimate for preparation of Immersion of Ganesh Idols in Temporary Immersion Tank ward no-14 in Vidyaranyapura near Narasipura Lake.	5.00	12,500/-
8	15	Estimate for preparation of Immersion of Ganesh Idols in Temporary Immersion Tank ward no-15 in Kuvempunagara Singapura Lake. (ST Category)	5.00	6,250/-

Date of events: **(1)** Last date for uploading the filled Tender document : 06.09.2023 upto 16.00 hrs **(2)** Date of Opening Financial bid: **08.09.2023 @ 11.00 am**
Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from **website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Byatarayanapura Division, BBMP, Bengaluru

National Health Mission
STATE HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY
Arogya Soudha, 1st Floor, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560023.
Phone: 080-23113584 E-mail: pdrch-hfws@karnataka.gov.in

No: PD/IDSP/BPHU/Procurements/45/2022-23 Date: 25-08-2023
Ref. No: 1) NHM/2023-2024/IND0005 2) NHM/2023-2024/IND0006

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement)
Supply & Installation of ICT Equipments and Furnitures for National Health Mission

KSHFWS invites application from registered eligible Manufacturers/ Suppliers to submit their proposal through e-Procurement Portal for **Supply and Commissioning of ICT Equipments and Furnitures with required necessary documents.**
The detailed notifications regarding eligibility and other details can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The tender document can be downloaded through e-Procurement Portal **from 29-08-2023 onwards** and Last Date for Receipt of Tender is **on or before 5.30 PM on 09-10-2023.**
Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during the office hours **from 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM.**

Sd/-
Project Director (RCH)

DIPR/CP/1093/Adverto/2023-24

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮೈಸೂರು.
ಮೌಲನಾ ಆಜಾದ್ ಭವನ, ಸಿಎ ನಂ-01, ಶೋಭಾಗಾರ್ಡನ್ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ದಂಡಿ ಮಾರಮ್ಮನ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನದ ಎದುರು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-ಮೈಸೂರು ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
GSTIN: 29BLRD08695B1DV
Ph: 0821-2422088 Email:gokdom.domys@gmail.com
ಕ್ರಸಂ/ಜಿಅಮೈ/ಅಸಂಕಇ/ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ-2/ಆ.ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್-27/2022-23
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.08.2023

ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2022-23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಡಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ನಂತರದ ಬಾಲಕ/ಬಾಲಕಿಯರ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಲಯಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಮೊರಾರ್ಜಿದೇಸಾಯಿ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಿಗೆ Group-A, Group-B Group-C & Group-D ಆಹಾರ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳ ಪೂರೈಕೆಗಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಅರ್ಹ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ (e-Procurement) ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಘಟನಾವಳಿಗಳು: 1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಜಿಅಮೈ/ಅಸಂಕಇ/ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ-2/ಆಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್-27/2022-23. ದಿ: 01.03.2023 **2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ.3,83,22,000/- **3)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸುವ ದಿ: 25.08.2023 **4)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 23.09.2023 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. **5)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಪೂರ್ವ ಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯ ದಿ: 12.09.2023 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. **6)** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ, ವೇಳೆ ಮತ್ತು ದಿ: 26.09.2023, 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು. **7)** ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ, ವೇಳೆ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ (ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾದವರಿಗೆ ಆನಂತರ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು) ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು. **8)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ: 5.75 ಲಕ್ಷ. **9)** ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು. ಇ.ಮೇಲ್: gokdom.domysuru@gmail.com ದೂ.ಸಂ.: 0821-2422088 Ph: 9632404314, 9620925247

ಸಹಿ/- ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
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NO HUE AND CRY

Babar wishes entire Asia Cup could have been held in Pakistan

Pakistan captain Babar Azam doesn't want to make a hue and cry about the hybrid model of hosting the Asia Cup, but said it would have been nice to have hosted the tournament in his country in its entirety. "It would have been good if the whole tournament would have been held in Pakistan," Babar said.

DEBUTANT'S WISH

Want to play competitively against Pakistan and India: Nepal skipper

Nepal skipper Rohit Paudel asserted that his team is capable of being competitive against Pakistan and India in the Asia Cup. "We are playing for the first time and it's a big achievement for all of us. Pakistan is a very good side and we want to play competitively against them as well as India. We deserve to be here," said Paudel.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

We are focused on Nepal game and will not take it lightly: Babar

Pakistan captain Babar Azam stressed his team was focused on Wednesday's Asia Cup opening game against Nepal and not on the match against India at Pallekele on Saturday. "At the moment, we are focused on Nepal and will not take it lightly. It's the first match and it is important," said Babar.

RICH TRIBUTE

Billie Jean honoured on 50th year of equal prize money for women

After a tribute from former first lady Michelle Obama, Billie Jean King on Monday celebrated the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Open becoming the first sporting event to offer equal prize money to men and women. Obama recalled how Billie Jean threatened a boycott of the 1973 tournament unless women got the same pay as men.

When injuries happen, we try and rotate a few players: Dravid

'The number four and five spots seem to get discussed a lot, giving the impression that we don't have clarity on who will be there; it was always going to be between Rahul, Rishabh and Shreyas for these spots'

ASIA CUP

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

India head coach Rahul Dravid dismissed suggestions that there was no clarity on the middle-order spots in the playing eleven. Dravid stated that K.L. Rahul, Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer were the chosen ones for the number four and five spots – options set in stone 18 months ago.

"The number four and five spots seem to get discussed a lot. It gives the impression that we don't have clarity on who will be there. But I could have told you 18 or 19 months ago who were the three candidates we were looking at.

"It was always going to be between Rahul, Rishabh and Shreyas for these spots. It is unfortunate that all three of them ended up with injuries in the space of two months. What are the odds of that happening?," Dravid said on the last day of the India camp at the Alur grounds here on Tuesday.

"When injuries happen, we try and rotate a few players. At least two (Rahul and Shreyas) of the three players have recovered and are available for us. It's now about giving the players enough game time (before the World Cup)," Dravid said.

The former India captain was pleased to see Jasprit Bumrah back in action. The pace spearhead made his comeback from injury on the short tour to Ireland earlier this month, where he played two T20Is. Prasidh Krishna is the other fast bowler who has returned from injury.

Dravid. PTI

> It is great to have them (Bumrah and Prasidh) back. We have missed Jasprit a lot over the last two years. It was good to get them bowling four over spells on the tour of Ireland

"It is great to have them (Bumrah and Prasidh) back. We have missed Jasprit a lot over the last two years. We will ease him into it. It was good to get them bowling four over spells on the tour of Ireland. We now have the chance to build on it in the Asia Cup.

"We have a full month to build it up before the World Cup. It gives us more options in the pace department. In a long tournament like the World Cup, even if people don't make it to the final 15-member squad, you want a couple of quality guys out there who are fit and can replace a player in case something happens," Dravid said.

The Indian team will travel to Sri Lanka on Wednesday, and open its Asia Cup campaign against Pakistan at Pallekele on Saturday.

Mission Asia

The 16th edition of the Asia Cup, which will follow a hybrid model, opens with host Pakistan taking on debutant Nepal. Sri Lanka is the co-host

India's triumph in 2018 made it a six-time champion (50-over format), steering it past Sri Lanka (5)

Year	Winner	Host
1984	India	UAE
1986	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
1988	India	Bangladesh
1990/91	India	India
1995	India	UAE
1997	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
2000	Pakistan	Bangladesh
2004	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
2008	Sri Lanka	Pakistan
2010	India	Sri Lanka
2012	Pakistan	Bangladesh
2014	Sri Lanka	Bangladesh
2016*	India	Bangladesh
2018	India	UAE
2022*	Sri Lanka	UAE

*Held in 20-over format

Scanning history

The Asia Cup 50-over numbers of the teams in the fray in 2023

	M	W	L	T	NR
Sri Lanka	50	34	16	0	0
India	49	31	16	1	1
Pakistan	45	26	18	0	1
Bangladesh	43	7	36	0	0
Afghanistan	9	3	5	1	0
Nepal	-	-	-	-	-

Magical moments

- Tendulkar's unparalleled feat (100th international hundred) was witnessed during an Asia Cup match (India vs. Bangladesh, Mirpur, 2012)
- Kohli's **183** (vs. Pakistan at Mirpur, 2012) remains his highest in ODIs
- India and Afghanistan were involved in a tie in 2018, the only instance in the Asia Cup

The Giants

Overall	Batting	India
Jayasuriya **(1220, 24 inns)**, Sri Lanka	**Most runs**	Tendulkar **(971, 21 inns)**
Kohli **(183)**, India	**Highest**	Kohli **183** (vs. Pakistan, Mirpur, 2012)

Overall	Bowling	India
Muralitharan **(30, 24 inns)**, Sri Lanka	**Most wickets**	Irfan Pathan **(22, 12 inns)**
Ajantha Mendis **6/13** (Sri Lanka vs. India, Karachi, 2008)	**Best bowling**	Arshad Ayub **5/21** (vs. Pakistan, Dhaka, 1988)

Records pertain to 50-over Asia Cup contests

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO | COMPILED BY G. PRASAD

The groups and dates

GROUP A: PAKISTAN, INDIA, NEPAL

GROUP A		
Date	Teams	Venue
Aug. 30	Pakistan vs. Nepal	Multan
Sept. 2	Pakistan vs. India	Pallekele
Sept. 4	India vs. Nepal	Pallekele

GROUP B: BANGLADESH, AFGHANISTAN, SRI LANKA

GROUP B		
Date	Teams	Venue
Aug. 31	Bangladesh vs. Sri Lanka	Pallekele
Sept. 3	Bangladesh vs. Afghanistan	Lahore
Sept. 5	Afghanistan vs. Sri Lanka	Lahore

SUPER 4s		
Date	Teams	Venue
Sept. 6	A1 vs. B2	Lahore
Sept. 9	B1 vs. B2	Colombo
Sept. 10	A1 vs. A2	Colombo
Sept. 12	A2 vs. B1	Colombo
Sept.14	A1 vs. B1	Colombo
Sept. 15	A2 vs. B2	Colombo
Sept. 17	**Final**	**Colombo**

All matches start at 3 p.m. IST

Rahul to miss group stage matches of the Asia Cup

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Wicketkeeper-batter K.L. Rahul will miss India's group stage matches of the Asia Cup 2023 and will train at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) here in a bid to gain full match fitness. He is said to be down with a minor niggle, unrelated to the thigh injury he suffered during the IPL.

Subject to an assessment on September 4, Rahul could join the squad for the Super Fours stage of the tournament.

Really good week

"Rahul has had a really good week (in the India camp at Alur grounds). He has trained well, and is progressing very well on the route we want him to take. But he will be unavailable for the Kandy leg of the trip. The NCA will look after him for the next few days while we are travelling. We will reassess on September 4, and take it from there," head coach Rahul Dravid said at Alur grounds here on Tuesday.

Rahul. PTI

Ishan Kishan is available in the squad as a wicket-keeper-batter, while Kerala's Sanju Samson has been named as a traveling standby player.

Dravid insisted that Rahul will get enough match practice before the 2023 ICC men's Cricket World Cup, which commences in around five weeks.

"It is only two games that he will miss. Both Rahul and Shreyas [Iyer] are in the same boat. It's a slightly cautious approach with Rahul. Leading into the World Cup, he will have a couple of match simulations which will give him a longer time in the middle. We are hoping that it is only two games that he misses.

There is an Australia series as well (three ODIs next month). I'm not too worried. Both Shreyas and Rahul are experienced players. Hopefully, we can give Rahul game time from the Colombo leg (of the Asia Cup)," Dravid said.

WC team will be a balanced one with a potential to win: Binny

Sumit Bhattacharjee
VISAKHAPATNAM

The process of selecting the Indian team for the 2023 World Cup is on, and it will be a very well balanced side with a potential to win the cup, said BCCI president Roger Binny at a media interaction here on Tuesday.

"We have in place a team for the ensuing Asia Cup. We have a few good batsmen in the form of Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Shubman Gill as our mainstay, and good fast bowlers, all-rounders and good spinners. Even our tailenders can chip in with the bat, if required.

Binny. FILE PHOTO

"But the only area of concern is injuries. Two of our main middle-order batsmen, Shreyas Iyer and K.L. Rahul, are recuperating after suffering injuries, and we hope that they will stay fit and play some good knocks," said Binny.

Referring to World Cup that would be played in India from October 5, Binny said, "No side can be taken lightly. Every side, be it Pakistan, England, Australia or New Zealand, has the potential, and there will always be a few surprises."

Bench strength

Speaking about the current bench strength, Binny said, "Unlike the yesteryears, we now have a very big bench strength. We have the strength to have three different teams for three different formats."

Djokovic in cruise mode; Gauff wins tense affair; Wozniacki back in style

US OPEN

Associated Press
NEW YORK

Novak Djokovic is back at the U.S. Open and will now be back at No. 1 in the rankings.

Djokovic made a winning return after missing the tournament last year, rolling to a 6-0, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Alexandre Muller on Monday night.

The 23-time Grand Slam champion had to wait through Coco Gauff's three-set victory to open the night session on Arthur Ashe Stadium, followed by an opening-night ceremony marking 50 years of equal prize money at the U.S. Open.

The No. 2 seed took the first set in just 23 minutes and won the first eight games before Muller finally got on the board, raising his arms in triumph after cutting it to 2-1 in the second set.

Djokovic improved to 17-0 in first-round matches at the U.S. Open and assured he will regain the No. 1 ranking on Sept. 11.

Gauff battled into the second round with a stormy three-set victory over German veteran Laura Siegemund.

The sixth seed, seen as one of the favourites for the title after recent tournament wins in Washington and Cincinnati, came from behind to win 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 in an attritional 2hr 50min tussle.

An ill-tempered match saw Gauff lose her cool with chair umpire Marijana Veljovic in the deciding set, with the 19-year-old accusing the official of failing to enforce time violation rules against Siegemund.

Announcing her return: Wozniacki, who retired in 2020 to start a family, is roaring again. AFP

"I don't care what she's doing on her serve but on my serve she has to be ready," Gauff yelled at the umpire. "She's never ready."

Tempers then flared again when Siegemund was called for a time violation for the second time at 40-0 down, handing Gauff a 5-1 lead.

Siegemund remonstrated angrily with umpire Veljovic but to no avail.

Caroline Wozniacki won her opening match in her first Grand Slam appearance in over three years, beating Russian qualifier Tatiana Prozorova 6-3, 6-2.

The former World No. 1 from Denmark returned to tennis earlier this month, having retired after the 2020 Australian Open to start a family and giving birth to two children.

Wozniacki broke three times in the first set against her 227th-ranked opponent who was making her Grand Slam main draw debut and playing just her third Tour-level event.

Danish fourth seed Holger Rune crashed out, losing in four sets to Spanish journeyman Roberto Carballes Baena.

Rune, beaten in the quarterfinals of Wimbledon by Carlos Alcaraz, succumbed 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 in a two-hour 42-minute contest. Carballes Baena, a clay-court specialist, has never been further than the third round at a Grand Slam tournament.

Third seed Daniil Medvedev raced into the second round on Tuesday with a 6-1, 6-1, 6-0 victory over Hungary's Attila Balazs.

Medvedev, the 2021 champion, hit 41 winners past the unranked journeyman Balazs in a match lasting 74 minutes.

IMPORTANT RESULTS

First round: Men: 12-Zverev (Ger) bt Vukic (Aus) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4; 3-Medvedev bt Balazs (Hun) 6-1, 6-1, 6-0; Berrettini (Ita) bt 29-Humbert (Fra) 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.

Baena (Esp) bt 4-Rune (Den) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; 10-Tiafoe (USA) bt Tien (USA) 6-2, 7-5, 6-1; 5-Ruud (Nor) bt Nava (USA) 7-6(5), 3-6, 6-4, 7-6(5); 32-Djere (Srb) bt Nakashima (USA) 7-5, 6-4, 6-4; 9-Fritz (USA) bt Johnson (USA) 6-2, 6-1, 6-2; Karatsev bt Lehecka (Cze) 6-3, 6-3, 6-3; 14-Paul (USA) bt Travaglia (Ita) 6-2, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1; Vesely (Cze) bt Couacaud (Fra) 5-7, 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4; Fucsovics (Hun) bt 31-Korda (USA) 7-6(4), 4-6, 7-6(1), 4-6, 6-4; Droguet (Fra) bt 18-Musetti (Ita) 6-3, 0-6, 6-7(5), 6-3, 6-2; 28-Eubanks (USA) bt Kwon (Kor) 6-3, 6-4, 0-6, 6-4; 7-Tsitsipas (Gre) bt Raonic (Can) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; McDonald (USA) bt 15-Auger-Aliassime (Can) 7-6(5), 4-6, 6-1, 6-4; 2-Djokovic (Srb) bt Muller (Fra) 6-0, 6-2, 6-3.

Women: 14-Samsonova bt Liu (USA) 7-6(3), 6-3; 31-Bouzkova (Cze) bt Krueger (USA) 7-5, 6-4; 5-Jabeur (Tun) bt Osorio (Col), Colombia, 7-5, 7-6(4); 22-Alexandrova bt Fernandez (Can) 7-6(4), 5-7, 6-4.

19-Maia (Bra) bt Stephens (USA) 6-2, 5-7, 6-4; 4-Rybakina (Kaz) bt Kostyuk (Ukr) 6-2, 6-1; 32-Mertens (Bel) bt Bjorklund (Swe) 3-6, 6-3, 7-6(3); 11-Kvitova (Cze) bt Bucsa (Esp) 6-1, 7-6(5); 20-Ostapenko (Lat) bt Paolini (Ita) 6-2, 4-6, 6-1; 24-Linette (Pol) bt Sasnovich 6-3, 6-1; Andreeva bt Gadecki (Aus) 1-6, 6-3, 6-4; 6-Gauff (USA) bt Siegemund (Ger) 3-6, 6-2, 6-4; Wozniacki (Den) bt Prozorova 6-3, 6-2.

Fallen seeds

Men: 4-Rune; 15-Auger-Aliassime; 18-Musetti; 31-Korda.

INBRIEF

Atletico swamps Vallecano 7-0 for its biggest-ever away win

Atletico Madrid dismantled city rival Rayo Vallecano 7-0 on Monday night with a ruthless display for its largest ever away win in the La Liga. Atletico's emphatic victory took it second in the table, two points behind leader Real Madrid.

The results: La Liga: Getafe 1 (Mayoral 84-pen) lost to Alaves 0; Vallecano 0 lost to Atletico Madrid 7 (Griezmann 2, Depay 16, Molina 36, Morata, *in pic.*, 72, 84, Correa 79, Llorente 86). **Serie A:** Salernitana 1 (Dia 72) drew with Udinese 1 (Samardzic 57); Cagliari 0 lost to Inter 2 (Dumfries 21, Martinez 30).

Injured Vinicius could be sidelined for a month

Vinicius Junior has a right hamstring injury which could sideline him for about a month, Real Madrid said on Monday. Vinicius fell and clutched his thigh on Friday early in the 1-0 victory at Celta de Vigo in the Spanish league.

LIVE TELECAST

Asia Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3 p.m.
US Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 & LIV, 8.30 p.m. onwards
South Africa vs Australia: 1st T20I, FanCode, 9.30 p.m.
England vs NZ: 1st T20I, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 10.30 p.m.

Tigers subdue Warriors, clinch the title

Half-centuries from Taha and Manish, and Manvanth's incisive spell help the Hubli side notch up an eight-run victory; Samarth's fifty goes in vain

MAHARAJA TROPHY

Sports Bureau

Half-centuries from Mohammed Taha (72, 40b, 7x4, 4x6) and skipper Manish Pandey (50 n.o., 23b, 3x4, 4x6), and a fine bowling effort from Manvanth Kumar (3/32) powered Hubli Tigers to the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 title. The trio helped the team secure a an eight-run victory in the final at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Tuesday.

Triumphant: The victorious Hubli Tigers team poses with the trophy. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Useful stand

Asked to bat first, Tigers lost Luvnith Sisodia off the second ball, but were propped by a manic 90-run second-wicket stand from 59 balls between Taha and K.L. Shrijith (38, 31b, 5x4). Manish provided the death-overs flourish, helping his side amass 42 runs from the last three overs.

The Warriors' chase was off to a fine start as openers S.U. Karthik (28, 18b, 3x4, 2x6) and R. Samarth (63, 35, 4x4, 4x6) put on 57 runs from just 32 balls. Captain and one-drop Karun Nair (37, 20b, 6x4) aided in keeping up the scoring rate as Tigers reached 134 for two, with a little over seven overs left and 70 runs to get.

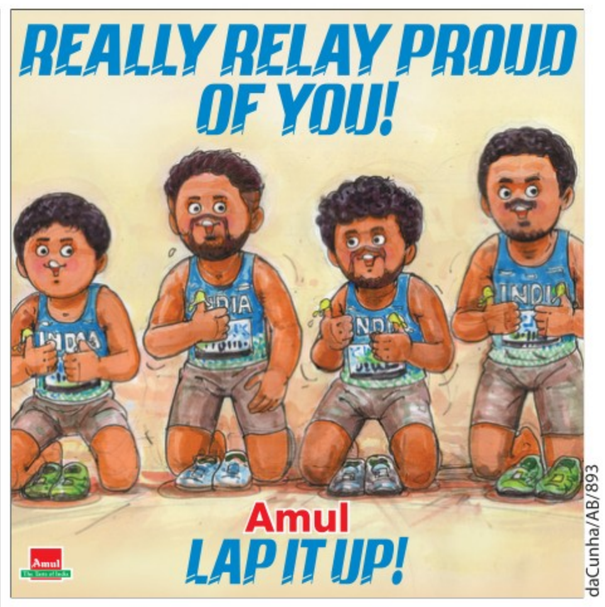
But the dismissal of Karun and the struggles of middle-order batters Lankesh (13, 15b) and C.A. Karthik (18, 12b), and the cheap dismissal of all-rounder Manoj Bhandage (0, 1b) slammed the brakes.

Manvanth Kumar, who dismissed Bhandage first ball and also sent back the seasoned J. Suchith (13, 10b) defended 11 runs off the final over, conceding just three.

Manish saving a potential sixer at long-off in the last over was crucial. For that and his earlier contribution with the bat, he was adjudged the Player-of-the-Final.

The scores:

Hubli Tigers 203/8 in 20 overs (Mohammed Taha 72, K.L. Shrijith 38, Manish Pandey 50 n.o.) bt Mysore Warriors 195/8 in 20 overs (S.U. Karthik 28, R. Samarth 63, Karun Nair 37, Manvanth Kumar 3/32); **PoM:** Manish; **PoS:** Taha.



BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Splendid spells by Vaishnavi and Saanvi

Vaishnavi Beerappa (4/9) and Saanvi Pramod Iyer (4/1) bowled Jupiter CA to a massive 366-run win over FUCC (2) in the KSCA Women's League.

The scores:

Jupiter CA 431/2 in 50 overs (C.D. Deeksha 126 n.o., K. Supreetha 49, Lakshmi Lakkond 99 n.o., Swati Venkatesh Karant 69) bt FUCC (2) 65 in 35.5 overs (Vaishnavi Beerappa Hunashyala 4/9, Saanvi Pramod Iyer 4/1).

Mount Joy CC 255/8 in 50 overs (Shreya Chavan 63, Preethi Singh 33) bt Vijaya CC 113 in 44 overs (Lavanya Chalana 28, Saina Kapoor 4/25).

Vultures CC 169 in 38.5 overs (Prakruthi N. Gopalkrishna 29, Kinjal B. Patel 38, Anu Dhananjay 3/8) lost to Yankees CC 170/5 in 46.5 overs (Anu Dhananjay 35, Simran 46, R. Harshitha 4/30).

Century Cricketers 77 in 31.4 overs (Ahlam 26, Chethana 3/7) lost to Cambridge CC 81 for no loss in 11.3 overs (Hima 44 n.o.).

Jawans CC 48 in 28 overs (R. Aditi 3/2) lost to FUCC (1) 49/1 in 5.1 overs (Anushree K Samagond 20).

Bangalore Occasionals 382/5 in 50 overs (Sakshi 81, Bhakti Shetty 90, R. Bhumika 66, Vandita Krishna Rao 58 n.o.) bt Chintamani SA, Chintamani 149/7 in 50 overs (U. Sanjana 66 n.o., Vandita Krishna Rao 3/12).

Young Lions Club 103 in 37.3 overs (Aishwarya 28, K. Nisarga 5/20) lost to Jayanagar United Cricketers 107/3 in 12.2 overs (Liyanka Shetty 37 n.o.).

Hammonds CC 53 in 29.4 overs (B.R. Kavya 4/4, Sahana S. Pawar 3/15) lost to Swastic Union CC (2) 54 for no loss in eight overs (Kandi Kuppa Kashvi 28 n.o.).

Minerva CC 150 in 40 overs (Shalini D. Kalal 46, Pushpa Kiresur 3/20, Shishira 3/38) lost to Herons CC 153/4 in 24.4 overs (Prangini 36, Shishira 31, Pushpa Kiresur 47 n.o.).

Norbu Sherpa and Ajith on target for HAL FC

Goals from Lakpa Norbu Sherpa and R. Ajith helped HAL FC register a 2-1 come-from-behind victory over South United FC in the BDFA Super Division football league on Tuesday.

The results: Kickstart FC 1 (Prashanth Kalinga 75) drew with MEG & Center FC 1 (Niyas Nazar 9); HAL FC 2 (Lakpa Norbu Sherpa 35, R. Ajith 88) bt South United FC 1 (Magesh Selva 22).

SNAPSHOTS

East Bengal makes final after 19 years

KOLKATA: Nandhakumar Sekar was the saviour once more as Emami East Bengal came back from the brink of defeat to beat a 10-man NorthEast United FC (NEUFC) 5-3, via the tie-breaker, in the first semifinal of the 132nd Durand Cup on Tuesday. The Chennai-born winger, who made a move from Odisha FC to East Bengal this season, produced the equaliser late in injury-time of the second half to make it 2-2 and then scored the final goal in the tie-breaker to see his team through to the final of the tournament after a break of 19 years.

The result (semifinal): NorthEast United FC 2 (Zabaco 22, Phalguni 57) drew with East Bengal 2 (Mahesh Singh 77, Nandhakumar 90+7). *East Bengal won 5-3 in the tie-breaker.*

Indian Army in the semifinal race

CHENNAI: Sumeet Pal Singh struck thrice as Indian Army defeated CAG 3-2 in a hard-fought Group-B tie of the MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup All-India hockey tournament in Chennai on Tuesday. With the victory, Army remained alive for a berth in the semifinals. In Group-A, Central Secretariat beat Indian Navy 2-1. This is Navy's third straight loss.

The results: Indian Army 3 (Sumeet Pal Singh 3) bt CAG 2 (Vishal Singh, Abharan Sudev); Central Secretariat 2 (Dharambir Yadav, Aniket Balasaheb) bt Indian Navy 1 (Parteek Singh).

TNCA XI in semifinals despite losing to Bengal

BUCHI BABU

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
TIRUNELVELI

Fine bowling efforts from off-spinner Toufik Uddin Mondal (four for 37) and left-arm spinner Vaibhav Yadav (three for 43) enabled Bengal to bowl out TNCA XI for 138 in its second innings and clinch a morale-boosting 68-run win on day three of the Group-D match in the Buchi Babu All India invitational cricket tournament here on Tuesday. Despite the loss, TNCA XI has still qualified for the semifinals.

The scores:

At Tirunelveli: Bengal 193 & 241 in 68.5 overs (Shashank Singh 59, Toufik Uddin Mondal 90, M. Siddharth 4/87) bt TNCA XI 228 & 138 in 46.1 overs (Toufik Uddin Mondal 4/37).

At Coimbatore: Chhattisgarh 270 & 202 in 64 overs (Anuj Tiwari 67, Aman Deep 61 n.o., S. Ajith Ram 9/72) vs TNCA President's XI 208 & 94/4 in 33.2 overs (Vijay Shankar 35 batting, Mohammed Ali 30 batting).

At Dindigul: Madhya Pradesh 440 & 17/0 in nine overs vs Haryana 322 in 130.1 overs (Ankit Kumar 105, Himanshu Rana 52, Sumit Kumar 47, Shubham Sharma 5/24).

At Salem: J&K 285/9 decl. & 144/2 in 46 overs (Qamran Iqbal 54, Shubham Khajuria 69) vs Mumbai 381 in 100.1 overs (Angkrish Raghuvanshi 52, Prasad Pawar 162, Sarfaraz Khan 72, Shivam Dube 41).

Asia Cup: A mock exam ahead of the main test in October

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

For the first time, the Asia Cup and the World Cup are being held in the same year, and within days of each other. Pakistan begin the tournament as the No.1 team in the world, and while India would like to win it, the focus will be on the bigger challenge commencing at home on October 5. There are still slots to be filled, permutations and combinations to be tried out.

India, currently No. 3, cannot claim to have a settled team for the World Cup, which explains 18 players in Sri Lanka for their opener against Pakistan. Sanju Samson adds to the game's lexicon as a 'travelling substitute', set to replace K.L. Rahul if the latter doesn't recover fully from a niggle he picked up while recovering from his thigh injury.

Also returning from injury is Shreyas Iyer, but it might not be a bad idea to play Ishant Kishan ahead of him at number three, if only to have a left hander in the top half, and someone who can strike early and consistently.

Kohli at No. 4?

This is assuming Virat Kohli drops himself to number four from where he can control the innings better, acting as the crucial bridge between the starters and the finishers.

With nearly 13,000 runs in 275 games and an average (57.32) unapproached by any of the top 50 batsmen (by aggregate), he may not need too much convincing if it is in the interests of the team.

At the 2007 World Cup, opener Sachin Tendulkar did not take kindly to being asked by coach Greg Chappell to drop himself down to No. 4 from the opening slot. If that were the plan, it should have been tried in earlier tournaments was his argument. The two modern greats did not see eye to eye; coach Rahul Dravid is unlikely to have such an issue with Kohli if he feels the move is necessary.

India have only one player who can bowl the full quota of ten overs as well as make a fifty in the middle order, and that's Ravindra Jadeja. It's the area they will be giving a lot of thought to.

Hardik Pandya didn't bowl ten overs in the West Indies recently. If he is played as a batsman who can bowl a bit, India will have to look for another bowler who can bat a bit. Jasprit Bumrah is returning from injury too and may not bowl the full quota initially. This means either Axar Patel or Shardul Thakur might get the nod. Balance matters, as do specific job descriptions.

Spread the big hitters

A Tilak Varma, who is yet to make his ODI debut, might be a better fit in some situations than an experienced player all too aware of the pitfalls of early hitting or unstructured innings.

Having big hitters spread out in the order is a boon even if two out of three fail. That makes Thakur doubly important (he is, besides, the most successful Indian bowler since the last World Cup, with 52 wickets).

The worst enemy of a professional approach is sentimentality – India tend to field players for what they have done in the past, hesitate to drop senior players, and pick such players on hope rather than performance.

The team at the Asia Cup might comprise the best available talent in India (give or take), and that's important to remember. But there is no top five batsman who can also bowl, like Sachin Tendulkar or Sourav Ganguly could. Nor is there a bottom four who can be expected to make runs quickly and consistently.

Since India begin with a match against Pakistan on Saturday (and might play them perhaps twice more), their best team will have to be on show straightaway.

Five of the six teams at the Asia Cup are in the World Cup too, not all of them with a realistic chance of winning the title. While teams like India and Pakistan will look to get their teams settled (India have three ODIs against Australia before the World Cup), others like Bangladesh and Afghanistan are probably not aiming that high. A good showing here is what they are looking for.

This difference in approach might be the key to a competitive tournament.

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